

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



Fathers of Confederation

LAND CRADLED ON THE WAVES

Prince Edward Island was known by many names before it received its present one. The indigenous Aboriginal people, the Mi'kmaq, called the Island "Abegweit," which means "the land cradled on the waves."

Prince Edward Island
Île-du-Prince-Édouard **2014**



Mi'kmaq group making baskets



Fanningbank, 1864 / PEI ARCHIVES

Prince
Edward
Island
CANADA

Greenwich, Prince Edward Island National Park



Photo Credit: Library and Archives Canada, Acc. No. 1997-218-1

The first European to sight Prince Edward Island was explorer Jacques Cartier in 1534. The Island was probably visited frequently by French fishermen in the 17th century, but Europeans did not settle permanently on the Island until the second decade of the 18th century.

When the French arrived, they named it Île Saint-Jean.

In 1758, the British occupied the Island and translated the French name to St. John's Island. Later, in 1799, the British again changed the name to the present Prince Edward Island, in honour of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, the fourth son of King George III.

PEI is known as the Birthplace of Canada because the Charlottetown Conference was held here in 1864. This first conference initiated a series of events that would lead to Confederation; consequently, the Island has been called the Cradle of Confederation. However, Prince Edward Island did not join the Canadian Union until 1873, nine years after the Charlottetown Conference.

POPULATION

The population of Prince Edward Island is 145,855 and is evenly divided between urban and rural dwellers. Approximately 54 per cent of the population is rural and about 3.7 per cent live on farms. By percentage of population, Prince Edward Island has the third highest rate of bilingualism in Canada; 12.7 per cent of the population self-identify as speaking both English and French.

Charlottetown and Summerside are the only cities in the province. Charlottetown has a population of 32,174, and Summerside has a population of 14,500. The rural backbone of Prince Edward Island is made up of seven towns and 66 outlying municipalities, of which about 20 are considered historic villages.

The majority of the population is of British ancestry, with the majority of these being of Scottish descent. Approximately 24 per cent of the population is of French/Acadian ethnic origin.

In 2009-10, it is estimated that Prince Edward Island experienced a new high of 1,715 for net international migration.

LOCATION/CLIMATE

Prince Edward Island is one of four Atlantic provinces located on Canada's east coast. The Island is crescent-shaped and resembles a cradle, thus the Mi'kmaq name of Abegweit, which means "the land cradled on the waves." The Island measures 280 kilometres (175 miles) from tip to tip and is between six kilometres (four miles) and 64 kilometres (40 miles) wide. The total land area of the Island is 5,684 square kilometres (2,184 square miles), and the highest point at Springton is 152 metres (500 feet) above sea level. PEI is located in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and is separated from the mainland of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia by the Northumberland Strait.

The climate in Prince Edward Island is varied. During July and August, the average daytime high is 23 degrees Celsius; however, the temperature may exceed 30 degrees during these months. In the winter months of January and February, the average daytime high is -3.3 degrees Celsius. The Island receives an average yearly rainfall of 71 mm and an average yearly snowfall of 35.6 cm.

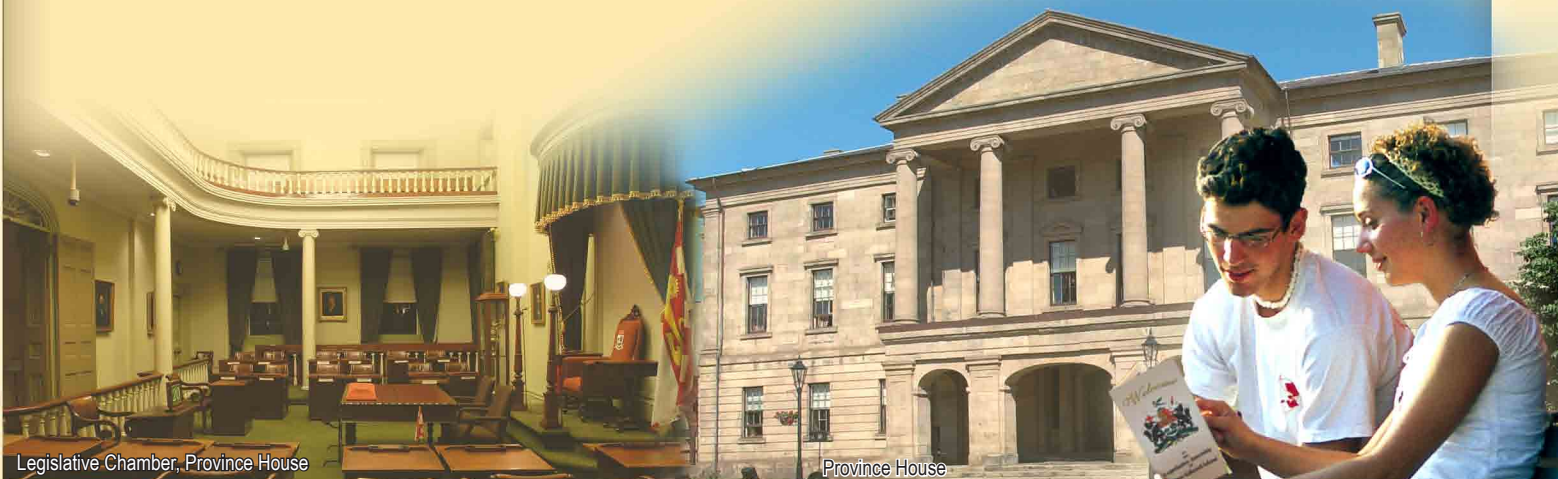
GOVERNMENT

There are three levels of government in Prince Edward Island: federal, provincial and municipal. The provincial government consists of a legislative assembly with 27 members elected from 27 electoral districts. There are five registered political parties in Prince Edward Island: the Green Party, Island Party, Liberal, New Democratic and Progressive Conservative parties. At the federal level, Prince Edward Island is represented by four members of parliament in the House of Commons and four senators in the Senate. Also, as part of a constitutional monarchy, the province has a lieutenant governor, who is Her Majesty The Queen's provincial representative.

The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI is the tribal council and provincial territorial organization in the province that represents both the Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations.

The provincial government is responsible for such areas as health and social services, education, economic development, labour legislation, and civil law. These matters of government are carried out in the provincial capital, Charlottetown. The federal government has jurisdiction over such areas as defence, currency, postal service, navigation, weights and measures, and criminal law.

Charlottetown is home to the headquarters of Veterans Affairs Canada, the only head office of a federal government department located outside the national capital region, Ottawa, Ontario.



Legislative Chamber, Province House

Province House

EDUCATION

Three school boards operate Prince Edward Island's 64 elementary and secondary schools. A complete school program is available in both English and French for students from kindergarten to Grade 12.

The Atlantic provinces have common curriculum for grades 1 to 12 language arts, science, mathematics and social studies. In addition to an academic program of studies, Island high schools also offer courses in industrial, business, information technology, and career exploration areas.

In PEI, 22 per cent of the student population is enrolled in French immersion. This is one of the highest levels in the country.

Today 23.5 per cent of residents aged 15 to 19 have bilingual skills, an increase of 100 per cent in a decade.

The University of Prince Edward Island offers studies in arts, science, education, music, family and nutritional sciences, and business administration. Preparatory programs in medicine, law, and engineering are also available. UPEI's Atlantic Veterinary College is a world leader in aquaculture research and offers doctoral and master's degree programs in veterinary medicine.

Holland College, the Island's community college, specializes in offering theory and hands-on training in a flexible learning environment. Partnerships with the private sector and industry have led to programs custom designed to meet the needs of specific employers. The college specializes in trades and technology career training programs. The college is also home to the Atlantic Police Academy, the Tourism and Culinary Centre and the Culinary Institute of Canada.

The College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada in Summerside opened its doors in 1990. In that short period of time, it has developed a world-class reputation as an international school of excellence in the study of the Highland bagpipe and other Celtic disciplines. Students come from as far away as New Zealand, Singapore, Germany, the United States and Scotland.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The PEI health system delivers safe, high-quality programs and services, which are accessible to residents across the province. Health care services are delivered by Health PEI. The Island offers an integrated service model and has two main referral acute-care facilities and five rural hospitals. Ground and air ambulance services are also available.

Specialty services are offered in such areas as neonatal intensive care, vascular surgery and ophthalmology. The expanded PEI Cancer Treatment Centre is also a strong support to those dealing with various types of cancer.

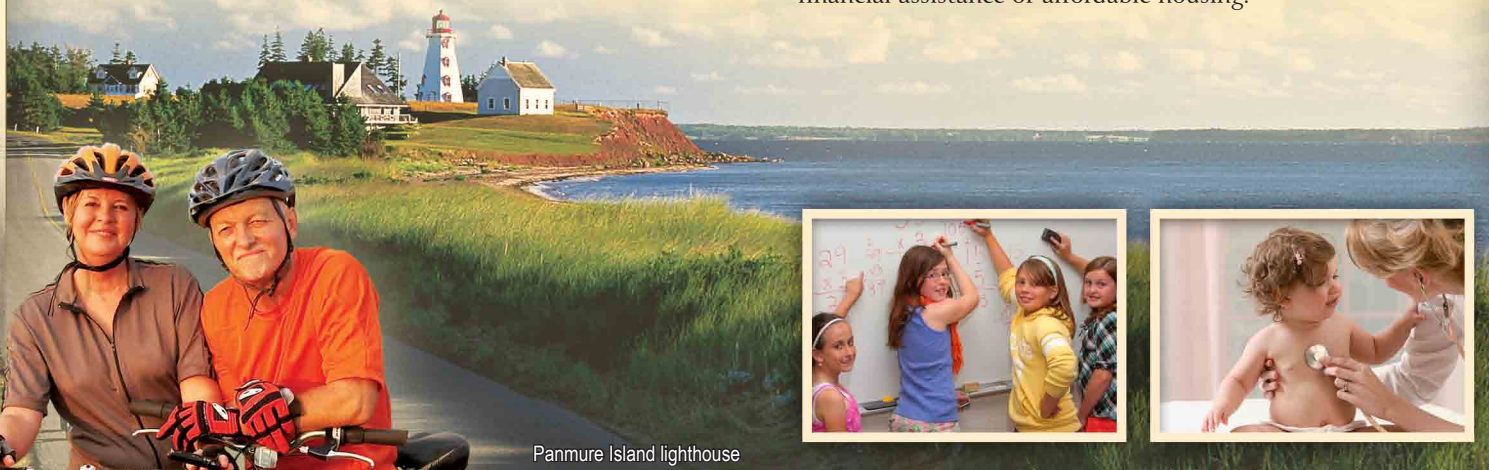
Prince Edward Island offers programs and services in areas such as acute care, primary care, home care, palliative care, public health, chronic disease prevention, and mental health and addictions, to name a few. With an emphasis on collaborative practice and excellence in primary care, there are several family health centres operating across PEI. A family medicine residency program is also now operating on the Island.

Long-term care services are also available with several programs in place to support seniors wishing to remain independent in their communities. Many medications for seniors are covered through the provincial drug plan.

Health promotion is recognized and valued by Islanders. There are a number of ongoing programs offered in the province such as mammography and Pap screening clinics. There are also asthma education and diabetes education programs. Prince Edward Island is highly recognized for its excellent prenatal programs, immunization programs and dental health risk prevention programs for children.

Key initiatives currently underway include a renewed model of primary care, enhanced home care services, a significant manor replacement initiative, a major redevelopment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the implementation of a comprehensive integrated Electronic Health Record (iEHR).

The provincial government is also responsible for the delivery of social services. In PEI, the Department of Community Services and Seniors works with other levels of government and community-based organizations to assist children, youth and families, seniors, persons with disabilities, and those in need of employment supports, financial assistance or affordable housing.



Panmure Island lighthouse

INDUSTRIES

In Prince Edward Island, there are many industries which support the economy, including: agriculture, tourism, fisheries, aerospace, bioscience and information technology. A large part of PEI's manufacturing sector is involved in the processing of agriculture and fishery products. Industries based on aerospace, bioscience and information technology are beginning to make their mark on the Island's economy.

AGRICULTURE

The rich red soil and moderate climate of Prince Edward Island make it an excellent location for mixed farming. Approximately 423,000 of the 620,000 acres in PEI are devoted to agricultural crops. Farm cash receipts are more than \$400 million annually, making agriculture the largest industry in the province. Potatoes provide the major source of farm income, accounting for about 50 per cent of total farm cash receipts. Prince Edward Island is Canada's largest potato producer. The province also produces dairy, beef and hogs, vegetables, along with grains, oilseeds and hay.

World-class potato products are produced on the Island. Two major international companies, McCain Foods and the Irving-owned Cavendish Farms, produce french fries for domestic and international markets. The Island is also noted for the export of its high-quality livestock genetics.

TOURISM

Tourism is another of Prince Edward Island's most important industries. In 2008, seven per cent of Prince Edward Island's gross domestic product (GDP) came from the tourism industry, and generated approximately \$42.9 million in tax revenues for the province.

Visitors come to PEI for various reasons, including culinary experiences, theatre, our rich historical and cultural attractions, and our beautiful beaches and golf courses.

Many Islanders are involved in the tourism industry. Some Islanders operate bed and breakfast operations or other accommodations. Island farmers, fishers and chefs produce and serve a variety of culinary delights, including PEI lobster suppers. Artists of all types entertain visitors at concerts, galleries, fairs and ceilidhs.

Beyond our beautiful natural scenery, world-renowned golf courses, and fascinating cultural attractions, it is the legendary hospitality of Islanders that keeps visitors coming back.

FISHING AND AQUACULTURE

Another industry of importance to the Island's economy is fishing and aquaculture. In 2010, the landed value of the fishing and aquaculture industry was in excess of \$140 million. The harvesting and processing of fisheries and aquaculture products accounts for roughly 9,500 jobs. Lobster is the most important fishery. Important aquaculture species include arctic char, trout, oysters, clams, quahaugs and blue mussels. The province produces more than 80 per cent of Canada's mussels. Other species that are harvested commercially include snow crab, rock crab, spider crab, herring, mackerel, cod and the giant bluefin tuna. A sea plant called Irish moss is harvested off the Island's coast, and it is used widely in the food and drug industries for its extract, carrageenan. The total contribution to the Island economy from fishing and aquaculture is in excess of \$350 million annually.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The information technology industry in PEI has enjoyed several consecutive years of 10 per cent or higher growth across many sectors including health care, independent software vendors, financial services, aerospace, wireless and mobile applications, and video game development. Prince Edward Island was the first Canadian jurisdiction to provide a province-wide high speed network enabling media-rich file transfers and teleworking and full-motion desktop video conferencing from anywhere in the province to anywhere in the world. Prince Edward Island is quickly becoming Canada's east coast designation for major development companies, startup enterprises and aspiring IT professionals.



TRANSPORTATION

The Confederation Bridge, one of the world's longest continuous multi-span bridges, connects Prince Edward Island to the mainland. The 12.9-kilometre bridge crosses the Northumberland Strait from Borden-Carleton, PEI to Cape Jourimain, New Brunswick and takes about 10 minutes to drive across. The opening of the bridge marked the completion of one of the world's largest construction projects in recent years and the largest public-private megaproject in Canadian history.

A treasured experience for Islanders and tourists is the 75-minute ferry ride to and from the Island. Northumberland Ferries Limited operates between Caribou, Nova Scotia and Wood Islands, Prince Edward Island. Car ferries run from May to December, weather permitting, and have 10 crossings per day during peak and shoulder seasons. A second ferry link, Corporation Transport Maritime Arien, offers regular ferry service (about a five-hour trip) from Souris, PEI to Cap-aux-Meules, Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Québec except during February and March.

The movement of goods to and from the Island is carried out largely by truck, as rail service was discontinued in 1989.

Both VIA Rail and Amtrak (via Montréal) offer rail services to Moncton, New Brunswick, with connecting bus service to PEI.

The Charlottetown Airport (CYYG) now offers more non-stop destinations than ever before including Halifax, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa as well as seasonal service to New York, Cuba and Dominican Republic. Corporate charter service is also available. Private pilots can take advantage of airports in Charlottetown and Summerside.

The Island has the highest concentration of roadways in Canada. The provincially managed portion of the network consists of 3,824 kilometres of paved roadways and 1,558 kilometres of non-paved or clay roads.



CANADA'S "GREEN" PROVINCE

With its rolling hills of green, rich red soil and brilliantly blue seascapes, Prince Edward Island is blessed with a rich natural environment that is an important part of the quality of life in the province. Islanders have been leaders in environmental stewardship. A prime example is PEI's waste management system, Waste Watch, which is a mandatory source separation initiative. Valuable resources are recovered through the sorting efforts of Island residents and businesses and, while this is the key to our system, the heart of Waste Watch is the preservation of our beautiful province. PEI has achieved some of the highest landfill diversion rates of any North American waste management system.

In May 2008, the Beverage Container Program was established to encourage the recovery, reuse and recycling of used beverage containers. The program is among the most successful in North America and has reduced the amount of beverage container litter in the province.

Prince Edward Island is leading the way on another front with its renewable energy strategy. With one of the best wind regimes in North America, Prince Edward Island is successfully developing and demonstrating renewable energy technologies. In 2010, wind power generated more than 20 per cent of the total amount of electricity consumed on the Island.

Prince Edward Island is setting its sights on new goals through continued development of wind energy, as well as other renewable energy resources such as biofuels and biomass. The province has an ambitious plan for a clean energy future – a plan where clean, renewable energy resources are creating a healthier environment and contributing to a vibrant economy.



The Confederation Bridge

Northumberland Ferry

North Cape

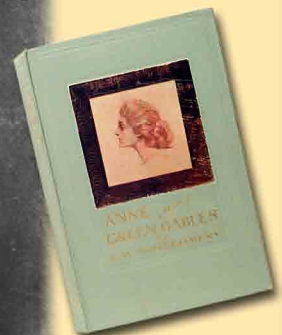
L. M. MONTGOMERY

Lucy Maud Montgomery, one of Canada's most famous authors, was born in Clifton (New London) Prince Edward Island in 1874. After the death of her mother when Montgomery was 21 months old, her father moved to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and Maud (as she preferred to be called) went to live with her maternal grandparents, Alexander and Lucy Macneill, who lived in Cavendish.

She was an only child, living with an elderly couple, so she found companionship in her imagination, nature, books and especially writing. Montgomery created an imaginary world to amuse herself, based in part by the inspiration of the Island on which she lived. At age nine, she already had dreams of becoming a writer. She wrote numerous poems and short stories, and her first publication was a poem that was printed in a Charlottetown newspaper when she was still a teenager.

As an adult, Montgomery taught at three schools in PEI: Bideford, Belmont and Lower Bedeque. In 1898, her grandfather Macneill died suddenly, so Maud moved back to Cavendish to care for her grandmother. For 13 years, she kept house and helped out at the Cavendish post office while moonlighting for American and Canadian magazines. Despite many rejections, she eventually commanded a comfortable income from her writing. Despite this, Montgomery was unhappy, feeling alone with no real friends around her.

In the spring of 1904, Maud took on the challenge of writing a book. It began as a short story based on an idea she found in her journal – "Elderly brother and sister apply to an orphan asylum for a boy, by mistake a girl is sent to them." In 1905, she completed her first and most famous novel, *Anne of Green Gables*™. She sent the novel to many publishers, but she became so discouraged by the rejections that she hid the manuscript away in an old hat box. In 1907, she found the manuscript again, and she decided to give publishing one more try. This time she was successful and *Anne of Green Gables*™ was published in 1908. The book was an immediate bestseller.



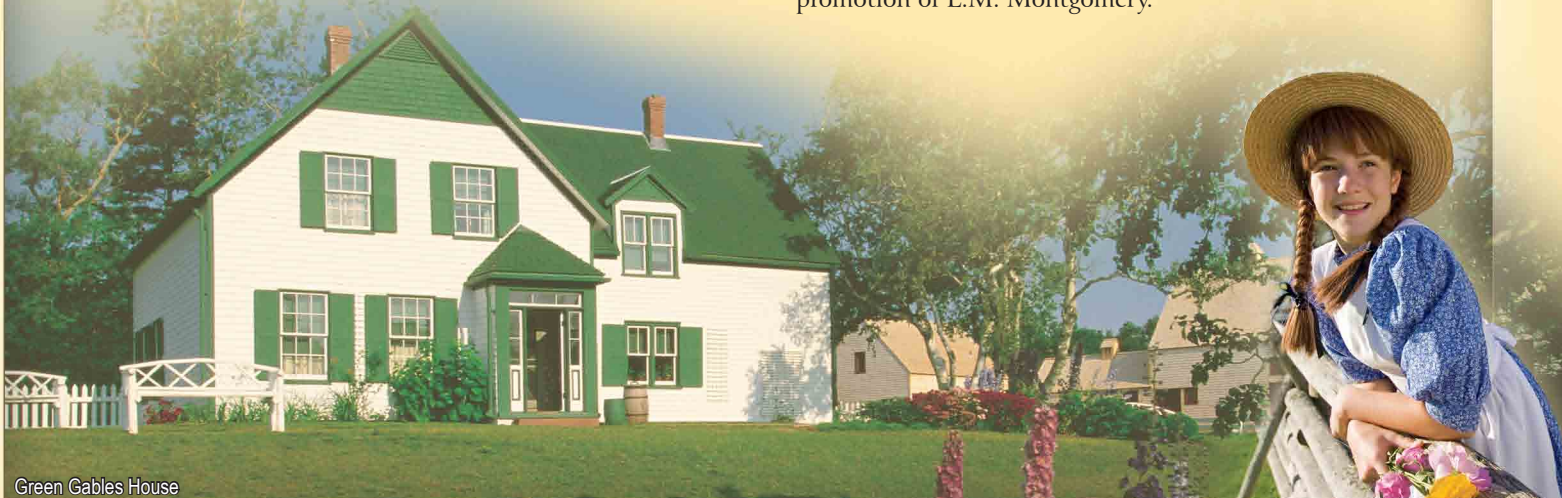
Anne of Green Gables™
first edition cover.

In 1911, Montgomery married Reverend Ewan Macdonald, after a five-year-long secret engagement. They moved to Ontario where Macdonald was minister in the Presbyterian Church. She had three sons – one died at birth. Maud ran the home, assisted her husband in his pastoral duties, and continued to write novels, short stories and poems. She sometimes returned to Prince Edward Island for vacations. All but one of her 20 books are set in Prince Edward Island, and they describe the life, nature, community and people of the Island.

On April 24, 1942, Lucy Maud Montgomery died at the age of 67. She is buried in the Cavendish Cemetery in her beloved Prince Edward Island, close to the site of her old home.

Anne of Green Gables™ has been translated into 17 languages and is the source for Canada's most popular family musical of the same name. The musical has played to full houses in Charlottetown, PEI every summer since 1964 and has been seen by more than two million people. In a personal letter to Montgomery, Mark Twain called Anne the "most lovable childhood heroine since the immortal Alice."

The L.M. Montgomery Institute, located at the University of Prince Edward Island, maintains extensive documentation on the life and times of Montgomery and is dedicated to helping students and scholars learn about and study L.M. Montgomery's life, works and influence. The Institute is a centre for Montgomery studies with a focus on academic scholarship and the promotion of L.M. Montgomery.



Green Gables House

PROVINCIAL BIRD

During the 1977 session of the PEI Legislative Assembly, the Blue Jay was officially named the provincial bird. It was chosen after a province-wide public vote held during Environment Week in 1976.

It is easily identified by its prominent sky-blue hood, wings and tail feathers. Its throat and breast are white, and horizontal black arcs accent the wing tips and long tail.

Common to the Island all year long, during the spring and summer the Blue Jay secludes itself in woodland areas where it nestles, feeds and raises its young. In the autumn, it prepares for winter by gathering food – grains, seeds and suet. Winter is the ideal time for sighting the Blue Jay, its shrill cries cutting the silence of the crisp winter air.



PROVINCIAL FLOWER

The Lady's Slipper was adopted as the provincial flower on April 25, 1947. The orchid gets its name from the shape of its petals, which form a pouch somewhat like a slipper. The Lady's Slipper blooms in late May and June and grows in shady and moist woodlands.



PROVINCIAL SOIL

The Charlottetown Series was designated as the Provincial Soil of Prince Edward Island on February 21, 1997. The Charlottetown Series is the most predominant soil type on the Island, accounting for approximately one-third of the total acreage. It is a sandy loam mixture which is moderately well drained, relatively stone free and considered the best soil for potato production.



Red oak leaves and acorns

PROVINCIAL TREE

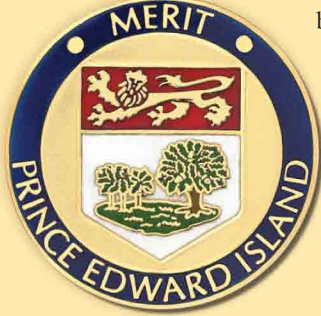
The Red Oak was adopted as the provincial tree in 1987. Of medium size – 18 to 30 metres in height and 60 to 90 centimetres in diameter – the Red Oak was at one time widely distributed in the hardwood areas of the province. It is now confined to small, scattered areas. Years ago, the Red Oak's wood was used in shipbuilding and in making barrels for dry goods. Today, it is often used for flooring, interior finishing and furniture.



Red fox

PROVINCIAL ORDER

The Order of Prince Edward Island was established in 1996 and subsequently formalized by an act of the Legislature. It recognizes individual excellence, achievement and outstanding contributions to the social, cultural or economic well-being of Prince Edward Island and its residents. Members of the order receive the Prince Edward Island Medal of Merit.



The order is the highest provincial honour that can be bestowed on a resident of the province. The insignia of the Order includes the Medal of Merit, which incorporates the provincial Coat of Arms (without the Latin inscription) against a background of gold and blue, worn with a ribbon of rust-red, green and white. A member is entitled to wear the insignia of the order as a decoration and use the initials "O.P.E.I." after his or her name.

ARMORIAL BEARINGS

The Armorial Bearings of the Province of Prince Edward Island was authorized by Vice-Regal Warrant – dated April 26, 2002, and proclaimed to come into force on December 13, 2002. The centrepiece is the Shield of Arms which features the English heraldic lion, a large oak tree on the right and three young saplings on the left. The mature tree was originally intended to represent England, while the three saplings stand for the three counties – Kings, Queens and Prince. Scrolled along the bottom of the Shield of Arms are the Latin words *Parva Sub Ingenti*, which, when translated, read "The small under the protection of the great." The surrounding elements of the Armorial Bearings illustrate significant characteristics of the province, its position in the Canadian federation, its founding peoples and its natural resources.



Fanningbank, home of the Lieutenant Governor

Prince Edward Island provincial flag

Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge stayed at the Fanningbank in 2011.

ISLAND TARTANS

People of Scottish descent make up the largest ethnic group in Prince Edward Island. To recognize their contribution in settling PEI, in 1960 the Prince Edward Island Tartan, designed by Mrs. Jean Reed of Covehead, PEI, was adopted as our provincial tartan. The reddish-brown signifies the redness of the soil, the green represents the grass and trees, the white is for the whitecaps on the waves and the yellow for the sun.

PEI became the first province in Canada to recognize an official dress tartan – a late-19th-century innovation intended for evening wear. The Prince Edward Island Dress Tartan was unveiled at the College of Piping in Summerside, PEI, on June 25, 1992. Designed by Ben Taylor, Scott MacAulay, Barbara Brown and John (Jock) Hopkirk, the dress tartan has a different design and substitutes white for one of the dark colours of the original tartan; however, it evokes a distinct PEI feel with its green and Island-red combination.



Prince Edward Island Tartan



Prince Edward Island Dress Tartan



A Pipe Major of the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada

THE ISLAND HYMN

The patriotic song of Prince Edward Island was written by Lucy Maud Montgomery in the spring of 1908. It was performed for the first time in public on May 22 of that year. It was sung to Lawrence W. Watson's music, which had been composed especially for her lyric.

The manuscript music, dated 27 October 1908, and correspondence relating to it are displayed at Green Gables House, Cavendish, PEI. An edition for mixed-voice choir was printed by Leslie Music Supply for the Prince Edward Island 1973 Centennial Committee.

The Island Hymn was adopted as the provincial anthem of Prince Edward Island by the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island on May 7, 2010. The *Provincial Anthem Act* includes a French version of the Island Hymn called *L'hymne de l'Île*. This French version was adapted by Raymond J. Arsenault of Abram-Village.

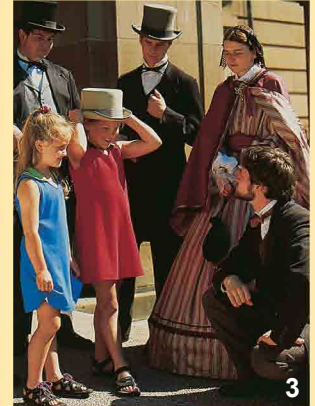
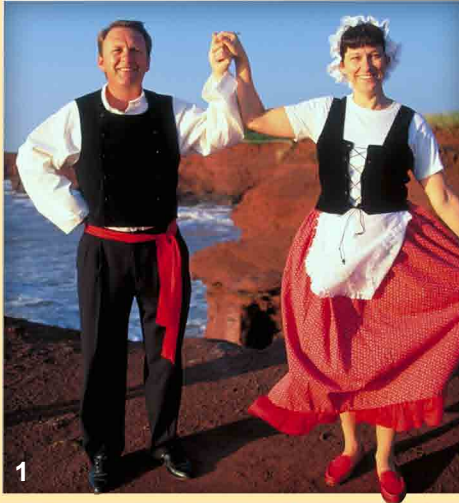
Lyrics:

*Fair Island of the sea,
We raise our song to thee,
The bright and blest;
Loyally now we stand
As brothers, hand in hand,
And sing God save the land
We love the best.*

*Upon our princely Isle
May kindest fortune smile
In coming years;
Peace and prosperity
In all her borders be,
From every evil free,
And weakling fears.*

*Prince Edward Isle, to thee
Our hearts shall faithful be
Where'er we dwell;
Forever may we stand
As brothers, hand in hand,
And sing God save the land
We love so well.*

FESTIVALS AND CULTURE



1. Acadian dancers 2. The Charlottetown Festival, Anne of Green Gables - The Musical™ 3. Confederation Players 4. Highland Storm Festival, Summerside 5. International Shellfish Festival, Charlottetown 6. Festival of Small Halls 7. Red Shores Racetrack at Charlottetown Driving Park 8. Abegweit Pow Wow, Panmure Island 9. Avonlea Village, Cavendish 10. Jack Frost Children's WinterFest, Charlottetown 11. PEI Fall Flavours Festival



Anne of Green Gables™

www.gov.pe.ca

www.tourismpei.com

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