

Prince Edward Island

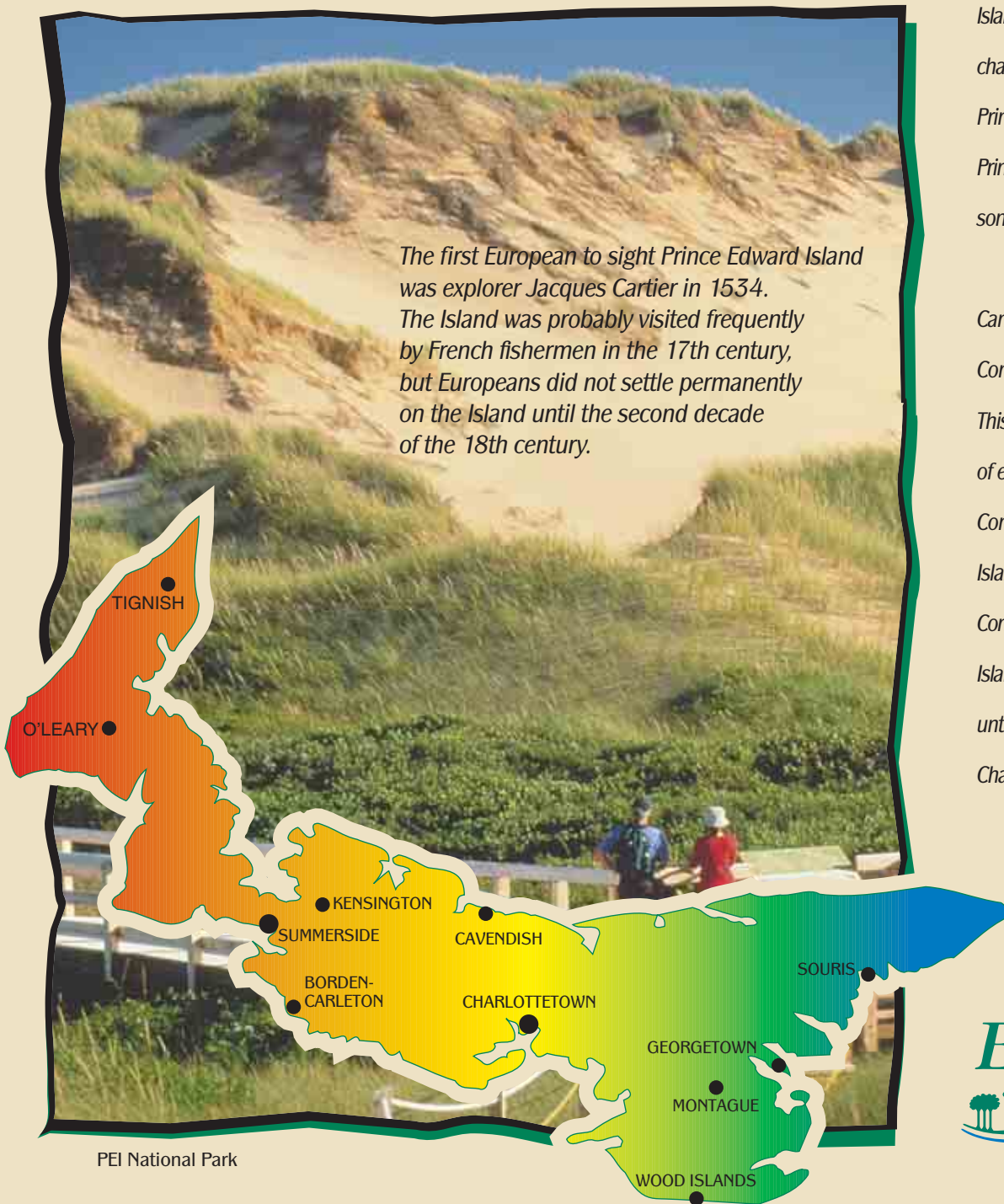
"Land Cradled on the Waves"

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

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

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.



PEI National Park



Bothwell

Population

The population of Prince Edward Island is 138,514 and is evenly divided between urban and rural dwellers. Approximately 56 percent of the population is rural and about seven percent live on farms.

Charlottetown and Summerside are the only cities in the province. Charlottetown has a population of 32,245, and Summerside has a population of 14,654. 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. About 15 percent of the population has Acadian roots while 11 percent of the total population speaks French.

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. 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 5,656 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 -3.4 degrees Celsius. The Island receives an average yearly rainfall of 855 mm and an average yearly snowfall of 285 cm.

Education

Three school boards manage Prince Edward Island's elementary and secondary schools. A complete school program is available for both English and French language students.

The Island is cooperating with the other three Atlantic provinces in developing 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.



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 degree and masters 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 Atlantic Tourism and Hospitality Institute and the Culinary Institute of Canada.

The Eastern Canada College of Languages, formed through a partnership among UPEI, Holland College and the PEI Department of Education, provides comprehensive English as a second language (ESL) programming for students and instructors.

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, yes, even Scotland.



Naufrage Harbour



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.

Health and Social Services

Health services are delivered by health authorities located throughout the province. The Island has two main referral acute care facilities and five rural hospitals that play an integral role in Island health care. Each of the health regions in Prince Edward Island are fully accredited by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation.

Specialty services are offered in such areas as neonatal

intensive care, vascular surgery and ophthalmology. With the recent purchase of a linear accelerator for the PEI Cancer Treatment Centre and a Magnetic Resonance Imaging Unit (MRI) for Diagnostic Imaging, the expanded PEI Cancer Treatment Centre (opening 2003) will be a fully functioning service which provides comprehensive quality care. Access to out-of-province tertiary care services has improved significantly with the opening of Confederation Bridge. Ground and air ambulance services are available.

Access to physician services compares favourably to other Canadian provinces. A provincial patient registry assists newcomers in locating a family physician.

Availability of long-term-care services is generally very good, with several programs in place to

support seniors wishing to remain independent in their communities. Most seniors' medications are covered through a provincial seniors drug plan.

Health promotion is both recognized and valued by Islanders. There are a number of on-going programs offered in the province such as mammography screening clinics, an asthma education centre and health information resource centres. Prince Edward Island is highly recognized for its excellent prenatal programs, immunization programs and dental health prevention programs for children.

Prince Edward Island offers an integrated system of health services including, acute care, long-term care, home care, mental health, addictions, child and family services and housing. The health system strives to offer client-centred services which are accessible to residents across the province.



Confederation Chamber, Province House

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. The three major political parties in Prince Edward Island are Progressive Conservative, Liberal and New Democratic parties. At the federal level, the 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.



Province House, Charlottetown

Industries

In Prince Edward Island, three main industries provide the thrust for the economy. These are agriculture, tourism and the fishery. Each industry has its own trademark, be it the potato, Anne of Green Gables™ or Malpeque Oysters®. A large part of PEI's manufacturing sector is involved in the processing of agriculture and fishery products. Aerospace and information-technology based industries are beginning to make their mark on the Island's economy.

Agriculture

The Island's rich, red soil and moderate climate make it an excellent location for mixed farming. Approximately 421,970 of the 655,365 acres devoted to agriculture are in crops. Farm cash receipts are approximately \$350 million annually. Potatoes provide the major source of farm income, contributing about 45 percent of the total farm cash receipts. PEI produces about one-third of the total amount of potatoes grown in Canada. The Island produces the largest volume of tablestock potatoes in Canada and the largest supply of seed potatoes in North America. Russet Burbank, Superior and Yukon Gold are some of the

popular varieties. World-class potato products are also produced on the Island. Two major international companies, McCain Foods Limited and Irving-owned Cavendish Farms, produce french fries from the Island's famed spud.

Tourism

Tourism is the second largest and fastest growing industry in Prince Edward Island. In 2002, 1.149 million pleasure and business visitors came to PEI contributing \$352.9 million to the Island's economy. Visitation to PEI increased by an amazing 60 percent in 1997 with the opening of the Confederation Bridge and has continued at approximately the same level since. The Island is a wonderful vacation destination, where visitors can choose from activities related to history, culture, cuisine, sport and recreation. Visitors to the Island can enjoy miles of deserted beaches, scenic hiking trails, great golf courses, world-famous lobster suppers, picturesque landscape and friendly people. All this adds up to a relaxing and enjoyable Island vacation experience.

Fishing and Aquaculture

The final industry of major importance to the Island's

economy is fishing and aquaculture. In 2001, the landed value of the fishing and aquaculture industry (including lobster) was in excess of \$164 million and the industry accounted for 9,200 full-time and seasonal jobs in fishing and processing. Other species that are harvested commercially include snow crab, rock crab, spider crab, herring, mackerel, cod and the giant bluefin tuna. Also, a sea plant, Irish moss, is harvested off the coast of PEI, and is used widely in the food and drug industries for its extract, carrageenan. Commercially important aquaculture species include oysters, blue mussels, arctic char and trout. The total contribution to the Island economy from fishing and aquaculture is in excess of \$325 million annually.

Information Technology

In March of 1997, PEI made history by becoming the first and only Canadian jurisdiction to provide the entire province with access to a high-speed network which can carry data, audio, graphics and video 5,500 times faster than the current industry norm. As a result, PEI is the first province to have Internet access in every school and public library.

Prince Edward Island businesses, in partnership with provincial and federal governments, are well on the way to transforming Canada's smallest province into its smartest. High-speed community access to the Internet across PEI allows: teleworking and full-motion desktop video-conferencing to any place in the world; province-wide information management for hospitals, clinics and pharmacies; and real-time updatable patient files.

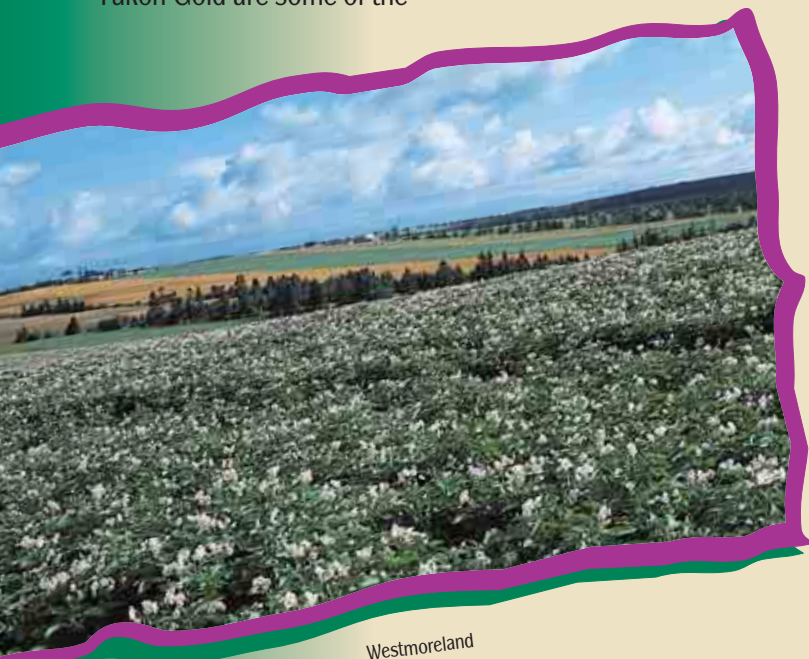
Advances in information technology have provided this small province an opportunity to

communicate, educate and do business globally on an equal footing with larger, more populated locations. All Island schools, post-secondary institutions, libraries, 46 communities, most government offices, hospitals and health-care facilities are wired for the future.

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 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 mega-project in Canadian history.

A treasured experience for Islanders and tourists is the 80-minute ferry ride to and from the Island. Northumberland Ferries operate between Caribou, Nova Scotia and Wood Islands, Prince Edward Island. Car ferries run from May to December, weather permitting, and have



Westmoreland





DeSable

nine crossings per day during peak and shoulder seasons. A second ferry link, Corporation Transport Maritime Arien (C.T.M.A.), 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 services to Moncton, New Brunswick with connecting bus service to many Island locations. SMT also offers daily bus service from Moncton.

Regional affiliates offer daily flights from Halifax, Nova Scotia and Air Canada has daily non-

stop service from Toronto. On a seasonal basis, additional non-stop flights are available from Toronto and Montreal. 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 highway system is made up of 3,798 kilometres of paved highways and 1,850 kilometres of non-paved or clay roads.

Confederation Bridge Facts

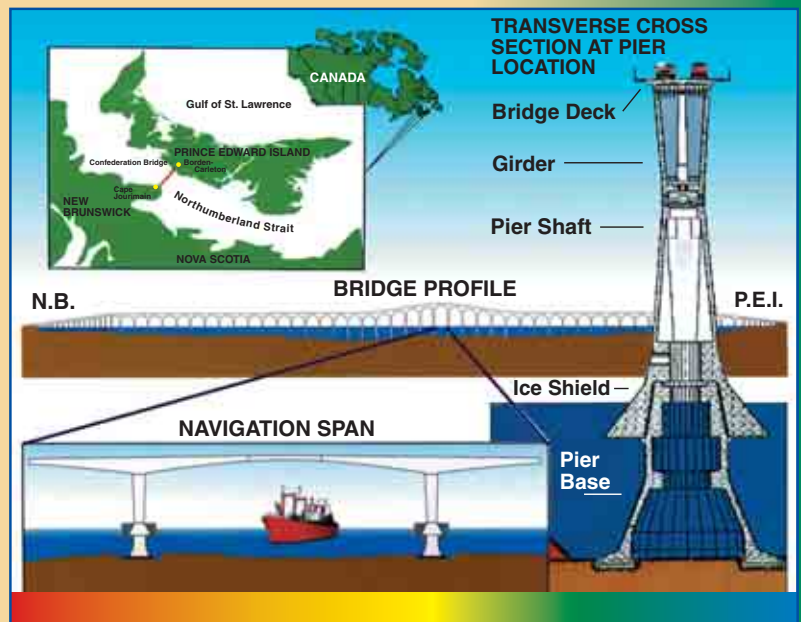
- The Confederation Bridge is the longest bridge over ice-covered waters in the world.
- Construction of the bridge has been named one of the most significant Canadian engineering achievements of the 20th century.
- Construction began in October 1993 and the bridge opened to traffic on May 31, 1997.
- Over the life of the project more than 6,000 people were employed by Strait Crossing Development Inc.
- The highest point of the bridge is the shipping navigation span which is 60 metres. The average height of the bridge is 40 metres above the water.

- The bridge is shaped like the letter “s”.
- The final main girder was placed on November 19, 1996, at 11:30 pm and was honoured with a sign that reads “Dreams Can Come True.”
- More than 3.5 million tons of concrete and two million cubic yards of aggregate were used to make the spans.
- There are 44 main bridge spans; the largest component in a bridge span is the main girder which weighs 7,500 tons and is 192 metres in length.
- The 11-metre-wide road has two travelling lanes and one emergency lane on each side.

- Emergency telephones and fire extinguishers are located every 750 metres.
- The bridge is not very steep—only a two percent incline.
- There are 310 street lights.
- Traffic flow is controlled by 34 traffic lights which are green under normal conditions.
- The bridge speed limit is 80 kilometres per hour in normal driving conditions.
- Only motor vehicles are allowed to use the bridge. A shuttle service is available for cyclists and pedestrians.



The Confederation Bridge



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. Maud (as she preferred to be called) went to live with her maternal grandparents, Alex and Lucy Macneill, who lived in Cavendish.

Living with strict grandparents who would not allow playmates into their home, Montgomery created an imaginary world to amuse herself. At age nine, she already had dreams of becoming a writer.



published. She became so discouraged that she hid the manuscript away in an old hat box. When she rediscovered it some years later, she decided to give it one more try. This time she was successful and *Anne of Green Gables™* was published in 1908. The book was an instant hit and has remained a Canadian bestseller for over 85 years. The novel 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 PEI every summer since 1964 and has been seen by more than one million people.

1927 (*Emily of New Moon™*, *Emily Climbs* and *Emily's Quest*) is also a dreamy orphan girl living in Prince Edward Island. The *Emily of New Moon* television series was followed by a successful musical theatre version of the novel that ran for two seasons on Main Stage at the Charlottetown Festival.

In 2000, the L.M. Montgomery Institute, located at the University of Prince Edward Island, created a CD-ROM, entitled *The Bend in the Road*, which contains extensive documentation on the life and times of Montgomery and explores her works chronologically and genealogically. The CD includes many links to other areas of interest to Montgomery fans and scholars as well as audio and video clips.

She wrote numerous poems and short stories, and at age 21 sold her first story to *The Canadian Magazine*.

was widowed and Maud moved back to Cavendish to care for her. For 13 years, she kept house and ran the Cavendish Post Office while moonlighting for American and Canadian magazines. Her pen was soon earning her a livable income of \$600 a year. 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." The heroine Maud created seemed so lifelike that she decided to expand her story into a novel. When it was completed in October of 1905, Maud had difficulty getting it

In 1911, Montgomery married Rev. Ewan Macdonald. They moved to Ontario and had three children—one died at birth.

Another of Montgomery's fictional characters has become very popular recently. *Emily*, the heroine of three novels published in 1923, 1925 and



Green Gables House™

Maud went on to write 23 books, including a short-story collection and poetry anthology; however, she is best known as the creator of *Anne*. All but one of her novels are set on PEI: *the Land of Anne™*. 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.



Kelly O'Neill as "Anne of Green Gables™"



Martha MacIsaac as "Emily" and Jessica Pellerin as "Ilse"

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.

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-nineteenth 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, but remains distinctly "Island" with its green and Island-red combination.



Prince Edward Island Dress Tartan

Prince Edward Island Tartan



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.



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.

Provincial Order

The Order of Prince Edward Island was established in 1996 and subsequently formalized by an act of the Legislature, to recognize 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. Insignia of the Order include 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, 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.



The Red Oak at Fanningbank, home of the Lieutenant Governor

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) at one time the Red Oak was widely distributed in the

hardwood areas of the province. It is now confined to small scattered areas. Years ago, Red Oak was used in shipbuilding and making barrels for dry goods. Today, it is often used for flooring, interior finishing and furniture.



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