

History continued

1758, that the British Navy sailed into the harbor of Port La Joye. The French were easily driven off the island and the British quickly began to build a harbor defense named Fort Amherst.

The French were defeated in the French and Indian War and with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763 France surrendered nearly all of its claims in North America (a vast amount of territory) including Canada. By 1768 the plans for the new harbor town on Saint John's Island were taking shape. The town was named for the wife of England's King George III, Queen Charlotte.

Walter Patterson, an Irishman, was designated the island's first governor. He arrived in 1770 when the population was well under 500. The governor, in order to attract Irish settlers had the name of the island colony changed to New Ireland. Back in London the government basically responded with the words... "Not so fast." The island remained Saint John's and Governor Patterson, through apparently shady land grabs, proceeded to make himself extremely unpopular with the local citizens. To their relief in 1786 Patterson was recalled to England in disgrace. During and after the Revolutionary War a number of British loyalists left the American colonies and resettled on Saint John.

In the late 1700s England approved the islander's petition to change the name Saint John's to Prince Edward Island in honor of the son of King George III, Edward Augustus.

In early September 1864, weighty matters of national importance were afoot. William Henry Pope, as the island's representative and Charlottetown as the island's capital were set to host a vital conference. Charlottetown was now ready. The city had grown through the first half of the 19th century. A home for the governor, Government House, and the legislature building, Province House, were just two examples of the dignified Victorian buildings that had been constructed in the expanding city. After much planning, distinguished legislative visitors from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the Province of Canada (modern Ontario and Quebec), arrived in port aboard the SS Victoria. They had come to attend a seven day long forum in Charlottetown.

For the next week the conferees met in Charlottetown's stately Province House and lay the groundwork for what would eventually become the country's Articles of Confederation...the very foundation of a free and independent Canada within the British Commonwealth of Nations. These were indeed weighty matters and Charlottetown and the citizens of Prince Edward Island were...and continue to be...proud of their role in the process.

CHARLOTTETOWN POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Founders Hall is located on the waterfront where the delegates to the 1864 Charlottetown Conference first came ashore. This hall contains an interactive multi-media display that tells the history of Canada and the important role the Charlottetown Conference played in the founding of the nation.

2 Great George Street is the heart of Charlottetown's historic district. This is a wonderful place to stroll and get the feel of the romantic Victorian Age. Horse-drawn carriages, tree lined walks, shops, taverns and Victorian style homes all come together to make this street one of the prettiest in Charlottetown.

3 Province House was completed in 1847 and has served as the home of the Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly ever since. A National Historic Site, Province House is the second oldest government seat in Canada. The building underwent major renovations in the late 70s and early 80s and was beautifully restored to its original glory. Though an active Legislative Assembly continues to function, through the cooperation of the province and Parks Canada, stately Province House still welcomes visitors.

4 The Beaconsfield House was completed in 1877 as the Victorian Age home of a prominent Charlottetown businessman. The home has been beautifully maintained and remains an elegant testament to that romantic period now long past.

Beyond Charlottetown

5 The Prince Edward Island National Park stretches along the north coast of the province. The park has numerous beaches combined with dunes, marshlands and forests that provide a home to various species of plants and endangered birds.

6 The Cavendish National Historic Site is located within the P.E.I. National Park. The farm is the one which was so lovingly written about in Lucy Maud Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*. Visitors come from around the world to enjoy this beautiful pastoral setting and get a sense of the site that inspired Ms. Montgomery to create her wonderful story that has delighted readers for more than a century.

7 Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site is also located within the P.E.I. National Park. The beautifully restored Victorian home was built by former business magnate Alexander MacDonald and named after his childhood home in Scotland.

8 The Green Park Shipbuilding Museum presents the history of shipbuilding on Prince Edward Island. Located in Port Hill, the museum together with the refurbished Victorian Style home of James Yeo, one of the island's most accomplished shipbuilders, show visitors the well-to-do lifestyle of the mid to late 1800's.

9 The Eptek Art and Culture Center is located in Summerside and offers visitors a collection of exhibits that range from the arts and sciences to island history.

10 The Acadians Museum relates the history of the Acadians French from the time of the first settlement on the island in the 1720s up through the present. Located in Miscouche the museum includes a heritage trail and genealogical information for visitors of Acadian ancestry.

11 The Orwell Historic Village is a faithful recreation of a late 1800s Prince Edward Island community. Overlooking Orwell Bay the village includes among other things gardens, livestock, a blacksmith shop and schoolhouse. Villagers dressed in period costumes, many of whom are decedents of the original settlers, relate to visitors what life was like in simpler (not easier) times.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Charlottetown and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, please be advised to take only necessary items and to secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Price are set in all stores and shops

Tipping: 10-20% is the custom.

Local Cuisine: Prince Edward Island is famous for its small scale farming and the high quality of its produce. Agriculture is a vital part of the island's economy. Seafood is also fresh and abundant. Some favorite local recipes include: *Island Fish Chowder* - Combining and bringing to a boil margarine, milk, onions, potatoes, salt and pepper, haddock and lobster. *Lobster Cheese Casserole* - Combine cheddar cheese, milk, cream, butter, flour, salt, paprika and diced lobster then bake. *Oyster Rockefeller* - Combines fresh spinach, garlic, butter, cream, hot sauce, shallots and Pastis liqueur spooned over oysters topped with gruyere cheese and broiled.

Drink Specialties: Canada is justly famous for its many fine beers. Three of the most popular are *Molson Canadian*, *Alexander Keith's India Pale Ale* and *Moosehead Lager*. *Crown Royal Special Reserve* and *Tangle Ridge* are among Canada's best whiskeys.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Charlottetown's main shopping area is along the waterfront and along Queen Street and Victoria Row.

LOCAL CURRENCY The Canadian one dollar bill is sometimes referred to as a "loonie". The national bird of Canada is the loon and it is represented on the dollar coin.

TOURIST INFORMATION Charlottetown's Tourist Information Center is located in Founders' Hall, # 6 Prince Street.

TRANSPORTATION Most major car rental companies are represented in Charlottetown.

Taxis are widely available in Charlottetown. Fares are charged according to destination zones rather than a running meter.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES English and French are the official languages of Canada. English speaking Canadians might use other words than Americans for certain things. Some examples include:

Canadian English - American English
pop - soda
chemist - pharmacy
boot - trunk of a car
chips - French fries

