



Dates of Interest In Our Island History

1497—Supposed discovery of the island by John Cabot, whose head appears carved in relief on the front pediment of the Dominion Post Office building in Charlottetown, but of whose visit there is no evidence of any kind. 1534—Jacques Cartier's arrival. June 30. He made his landfall near East Point, and was the first white man to leave any record of his visit to these shores. 1632—Isle St. Jean appears correctly drawn on Champlain's map of New France. 1720—Port in Joie founded. 1721—Arrival of first Christian missionary, l'Abbe de Breslay. 1722—First church at Port in Joie dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. 1728—Influx of Acadians from Nova Scotia. 1732—De Roma's colony at Three Rivers. 1738—Grain fields ravaged by insects. Settlers would have starved but for help from Louisbourg. 1745—Invasion and capture by the English. 1748—Isle St. Jean restored to France by treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. 1752—Colonel Franquet's visit. He toured the island and reported on its fortifications to the French Government. 1752—Catholic parishes organized at Point St. Charles, St. Peter's Harbour and Malpeque. 1758—Expulsion of Acadians following British conquest under Lord Rolla. Fort Amherst built at Rocky Point, near Port in Joie. 1760—First British subject (John Webster, Jr.) born Oct. 24. (This name is also claimed for Frederick Holland, eldest son of Surgeon General Samuel Holland). 1763—Island ceded to Britain and under government of Nova Scotia. 1764—Holland's survey begun. Earl of Egmont's scheme for a settlement on feudal basis turned down by British Government. 1765—Charlottetown designated as island capital. 1768—Island disposed of to Crown lands by lots drawn in London. 1768—Walter Patterson appointed mayor. 1769—Island becomes a separate Province. First enactment was a law regulating the sea cow fishery. 1770—Wreck of the "Annabella" at Malpeque with Scotch settlers including Robert Stewart, Speaker of the Island's first House of Assembly. First Chief Justice (Duport) commissioned. 1771—First Grand Jury assembled in Charlottetown. 1772—Arrival of Catholic Highlanders under Capt. Macdonald of Glenaladale, at Scotchfort. 1773—Constitutional government granted. First Legislative Assembly meets in Cross Keys tavern, corner Queen and Dorchester streets. 1774—First Tax Act passed, (on distilled spirits and liquors). 1775—Charlottetown looted by American privateers, who kidnapped the Mayor, Philip Callbeck and Surgeon General Thomas Wright. Arrival of Rev. Theophilus DesBrisay, first Anglican rector. 1776—Chief Justice Stewart and family, en route from Scotland, wrecked off Cascumpec. First winter mail service via Wood Islands. 1778—First Barracks erected, east side of King and Queen Streets. 1779—Assembly petitions for forfeiture of lands of delinquent proprietors. 1780—Militia Act passed. Proceedings commenced for recovery of quit rents. First coffee house opened at St. John's coffee house, Queen Street. 1781—Slavery, though never prevalent, recognized when a slave passed this year declaring "that Baptism of Slaves shall not exempt them from bondage." The Act was not repealed until 1825. 1784—Empire Loyalists at Beque. 1786—Governor Patterson recalled. General Fanning appointed. 1787—First newspaper, the Royal Canadian Gazette and Intelligencer, launched by James Robertson. 1788—First visit of a British naval squadron, under Rear Admiral Sawyer. 1789—First interment in old Protestant Cemetery, Elm Avenue. (The ground was not consecrated until 1826.) 1790—Arrival of Rev. Bernard McEachern, who became the Island's first Roman Catholic Bishop. 1791—Royal Gazette established. 1791—Visit of first Presbyterian missionary, Rev. James McGregor. 1796—Scottish Catholic settlement at Launching. 1797—First Masonic Lodge instituted. 1798—Probable date of completion of Fort Edward, (Victoria Park) and York battery. 1800—Island renamed after Prince Edward, father of Queen Victoria. Island settled by Acadians from Malpeque. New Barracks built near site of present City Hospital. 1801—First postal service in operation. It was extended two years later with Bonj. Chappell as postmaster. Until 1827 the only office was in Charlottetown. 1802—Court house and Anglican church (first St. Paul's) erected on west end of Queen Square. 1803—Arrival of the Belkirk settlers at Belfast. 1804—Construction of Catholic Church commenced at St. Andrew's. 1804—Quernsey settlers at Mur-

ray Harbour.—Ordination of first Presbyterian minister, Rev. Peter MacEachern. 1807—Press gang active at Georgetown.—Arrival of first ordained Methodist minister, Rev. John Bulmer. 1808—Oban pioneers arrive on "Clarendon." 1810—First two-handed plow introduced by Governor Smith. It was used by the Islanders until the following ten years of Smith's regime. 1815—First Methodist chapel built at Murray Harbour. 1816—First postal courier service.—Work started on Methodist chapel in Charlottetown. 1820—First exhibition of Island produce, at Crapaud. 1821—P. E. I. Presbytery constituted at meeting in Lot 16.—Bishop McEachern consecrated.—National School opened in Charlottetown. 1822—Erection begun of Round Market House on Queen Square. It remained a familiar landmark for half a century, with its colonnades and cupolas, and wooden scales inscribed with the text from Proverbs: "A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a

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mainland, involving change-over from narrow to standard railway gauge, pledged definitely by Prime Minister Borden in letter (Dec. 22) to A. MacLean and Donald Nicholson, M.P.s.—Telephone communication established between Island and mainland. 1912—First comprehensive presentation of Island's fiscal claims before Dominion Government by Premier Matheson.—Prince County Hospital opened at Summerside by Duke of Connaught. 1913—St. Dunstan's Cathedral destroyed by fire.—First Women's Institutes established.—New Zion Church building dedicated.—Egg circles instituted.—Silver fox boom at peak, with young foxes selling at \$14,000 to \$16,000 per pair, breeding pairs at \$25,000 and pelts at \$1,500 to \$4,000 each. 1914—Island well represented in first service forces overseas. 1915—Secret ballot introduced in Franchise Act.—Dalton Sanatorium opened at Wiltshire. 1916—P. E. I. Development Commission appointed. 1917—First car ferry ice-breaker "Prince Edward Island" begins operations. 1918—Ordination at Rustico of Rev. James C. McGuigan, now His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan. 1919—Visit of the Prince of Wales.—Opening of new St. Dunstan's Cathedral and of Dalton Hall at St. Dunstan's University. 1920—Potato Growers Association formed.—Catholic Women's League organized. 1921—Agricultural Technical School erected on Government House grounds. 1922—New passenger service between Charlottetown and Montreal inaugurated.—Celtic cross erected to commemorate Catholic pioneers at Scotchfort. 1923—New Protestant Orphanage building opened. 1924—New Charlottetown Hospital built. 1925—Franchise extended to wives of property owners. 1926—Island claims readjusted under Duncan Commission report.—Canadian Legion organized. 1927—Public Health Department established. 1929—First aviation club formed.—First silver fox show opened. 1930—Public Library and Harris Memorial Gallery opened.—Winter air service established between Charlottetown and Summerside. 1931—Provincial Sanatorium opened.—S. S. "Charlottetown" in operation.—Falconwood Hospital destroyed by fire, Dec. 14.—Hotel Charlottetown and Upton Airport opened. 1932—Prince of Wales College destroyed by fire, Feb. 6.—R. C. M. P. established in Province.—Summerside Academy opened. 1933—New Prince of Wales College building opened, Feb. 16.—Public Library service launched. (Continued on page 25)



The Great Fire of Sunday morning, July 16, 1866, was a vivid recollection to old Charlottetownians of a generation ago, and was recalled by the Island's unofficial poet laureate, John LePage, in verses which still succeed in conveying an impression of the urgency and excitement of the event. Breaking out in an old building on the east corner of King and Pownall Streets, the fire destroyed nearly the whole of four blocks in Ward One, cutting a swath two blocks wide until it was finally checked before destroying the buildings fronting on Great George Street. One hundred buildings were destroyed, leaving thirty families homeless. At this time all citizens were obliged to attend fires under the direction of the chief engineer and fire wardens. An old-fashioned hand engine, manned by firemen, was placed as closely as possible to the burning building, and between this engine and the pump a double line of men was formed. Each man carried a bucket of water, which was passed from the pump to the engines by one line, and the empty buckets were passed back by the other. Soon after 1866 the citizens decided to procure a steam fire engine for Charlottetown, which cost about \$5,000. It was known as the "Hollo" and was brought here from London on the deck of one of Peake's barques. Later a second engine, known as the "Sisby" was procured from New York. John LePage's verses on "the Great Conflagration" were so popular in their day that they were printed and widely distributed on handbills as well as in the newspapers, and were recited and even sung on numerous occasions. Here they are: Fire! Fire! said the Crier, Where? Where? said the Mayor. In Pownall Street! said Major Beale. Those ancient piles of wood—The Bagnall Buildings—which complete For sixty years have stood Of venerable memory among our oldest names; Ring! ring the bell, the folk to tell These buildings are in flames! Enwrap in balmy slumbers lay The citizens around, Tired with the toils of Saturday, And "sleeping very sound." Ding, dong! Ding, dong! both loud and long, The Fire-bell, in its way, Sped, Sleepers rise and rub your eyes, There's work to do to-day! In haste they rose, put on their clothes, Each striving for the van; Some with the engines and the hose, And some with buckets ran. The people swarmed, the lines were form'd, But pipe and hose were vain—'Twas all too late to stop the fate Of Bagnall's old domain! Thence, raging conflagration red Went forth three several ways: North, to the "Mansion House" it spread, And set it in a blaze.

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