

Notable People of Prince Edward Island



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Walter R. Shaw:

Walter Shaw was born on December 20th, 1887 at West River on the farm originally settled by his great-grandfather in 1806. He received his education at Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown and then went onto the Nova Scotia Agriculture College at Truro and completed his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at the University of Toronto. After completing his education he returned to PEI and entered the farming industry and earned a reputation as a livestock breeder.

Shaw joined the Provincial Government of Agriculture, and served in many capacities including Deputy Minister from 1934 to 1954. During his tenure of service, practically every reform and improvement in Island agriculture was influenced and launched under his direction. Shaw was responsible for the launching of the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture and served as its General Secretary as well as a Director of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Shaw entered politics in 1957 when he was named leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of the Province. He ran the Election of 1959 and led his party to a victory, winning 22 of the 30 seats. He was 71 years old and it marked the first time in Canada that a past civil servant had won such a signal victory. With his win he became the twenty-second Premier of PEI and held that position until 1966.

During Premier Shaw's administration, expansion was undertaken in many fields, including the food processing industry, the Regional High School system, the building of a new Provincial Administration Building, and a revamping of salary and employment conditions in the Provincial Civil Service.

J. Angus MacLean:

Angus MacLean was born May 15th, 1914, at Lewes, PEI. He was educated at local schools, Mount Allison Academy, Summerside High School, University of British Columbia, Mount Allison University and received a Doctor of Laws from Mount Allison University in 1958.

MacLean served in the Royal Canadian Air Force (R.C.A.F.) from 1939 to 1947 where he commanded the Test and Development Establishment from 1943-45 and Missing Research and Enquiry Unit from 1945-47 with rank of Wing Commander. He had served as a member of the United Services Officers; Club, Charlottetown; R.C.A.F. Association; Royal Canadian Legion; Great Charlottetown Area Charmer of Commerce and The Canadian Club, PEI.

MacLean was a delegate to the NATO Parliamentary Conference in Paris, 1956 and led the Canadian delegations at the Colombo Planning Conference in Toyko in 1960, the F.A.O. Conference in Rome in 1961, and the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on European Co-operation and Security in Helsinki in 1973.

MacLean was first elected to House of Commons of Canada on June 25th, 1951. In 1976, he was elected Leader of the P.C. Party. On May 3rd, 1979 MacLean was sworn in as Premier and retired in November 1981.

Daniel Joseph MacDonald:

Dan MacDonald was born on July 26th, 1918 in Bothwell PEI. He farmed in the community until 1940 when he enlisted in the PEI Highlanders. In 1943, he was transferred to the legendary Cape Breton Highlanders. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was first wounded on the Gothic Line in Italy. Sgt. MacDonald returned to his unit after only a few weeks, only to be severely wounded again in December 1944 when a shell exploded 20 feet in front of him. The injury resulted in the amputation of his left arm and leg. MacDonald returned to PEI and was a successful farmer, marrying and having a family of seven children.

In 1962, MacDonald was elected to the PEI Legislative Assembly and served as the province's Minister of Agriculture & Forestry from 1966 to 1972. He was elected to the Canadian House of Commons as Member of Parliament for Cardigan and served as Canadian Minister of Veterans Affairs from 1972 -1979 and again from March 1980 until his death in office in September 1980.

MacDonald is only one of two Islanders to be accorded the honours of a Federal State Funeral. His eulogy was delivered by his personal friend the Rt. Hon. Pierre E. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada. The headquarters for the Dept. Of Veteran's Affairs, situated in Charlottetown is named in Mr. MacDonald's honour.

Hon. Marion Reid:

Hon. Marion Reid was born in North Rustico on January 2nd, 1929. Reid was one of eight children. She began her career as a child, accompanying her mother to Progressive Conservative meetings, where women were rarely seen. Encouraged by her mother to continue her education, she graduated from Prince of Wales College at 17, and began her teaching career. Two years later she married and raised eight children of her own. Reid continued her teaching career for 21 years. In 1972 she returned to school, earning a Teacher's Certificate and two scholarships for academic excellence from the University of Prince Edward Island, which enabled her to become a school principle.

Reid began her official political career by successfully running in the 1979 PEI provincial election. She and running mate Leone Bagnall, earned the distinction of being the first female Progressive Conservatives elected in PEI since Confederation and only the third and fourth women ever elected to the provincial legislature. Reid served two consecutive terms as Member of the Legislative assembly for First Queens District. Reid served as Deputy Speaker of the House, and in 1983 served as Speaker of the House, the first women in PEI to hold both of these offices. Her final three years in the legislature were spent as Opposition House Leader. From 1990 to 1995, Reid served as the 37th Lieutenant Governor for the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Hon. Barbara A. Hagerman:

Hon. Barbara Hagerman was born in Hartland, New Brunswick. Hagerman graduated from Mount Allison University in 1965, specializing in voice and organ. She had a distinguished forty year performance and teaching career as a teacher in the Island school system, private voice teacher, guest performer with the PEI Symphony, adjudicator of Musical Festivals in the Atlantic provinces, solo recitals and church musician. She was host of a CBC Maritime-radio School Broadcast and conducted the Summerside Community Choir for seventeen years.

Formerly Ms. Hagerman has served on the National Boards of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals, Canada Council, the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors and the Fathers of Confederation Buildings Trust. She is held in high regard by her professional colleagues and makes a positive impression on people she meets from all walks of life across Canada.

Ms. Hagerman is the fortieth Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Prince Edward Island. Her installation ceremony was held on July 31st, 2006. She serves as Chancellor to the Order of Prince Edward Island (O.P.E.I.). She was also installed as Dame of Justice of the Order of St. John (DStJ) on April 12th, 2007.

Lucy Maud Montgomery:

Lucy Maud was born in Clifton (now New London) PEI. When she was two her mother died of tuberculosis. Her father then remarried and moved away. Montgomery was raised by her maternal grandparents in Cavendish. The place was isolated and her childhood was not particularly happy. She grew up in an atmosphere of strict discipline and punishment for the slightest reason. She joined her father briefly in Prince Albert, but then returned to PEI.

At an early age Montgomery read widely. She started to write in school and had her first poem published in a local paper at the age of fifteen. In 1895 she qualified for a teacher's license at Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown, and then she worked as a teacher in Bideford and at Lower Bedeque.

In 1895-96 Montgomery studied literature at Dalhousie University in Halifax. She returned to Cavendish to take care of her grandmother, and worked at the local post office. In 1911 after her grandmother died, Montgomery married and moved to Ontario. While caring for her grandmother, she wrote the first book of the Anne series. It drew on her girlhood experiences. The idea was based on a notebook entry from 1904: "Elderly couple apply to orphan asylum for a boy. By mistake a girl is sent to them.

During her lifetime, Montgomery published 20 novels, over 500 short stories, an autobiography, and a book of poetry. Aware of her fame, by 1920 Montgomery began editing and recopying her journals, presenting her life as she wanted it remembered. In doing so certain episodes were changed or omitted. Her major collections are archived at the University of Guelph, while the L.M. Montgomery Institute at the University of Prince Edward Island coordinates most of the research and conferences surrounding her work.

Thane Campbell:

Thane Campbell was born in Summerside on July 7th, 1895. Following his early education he went to a distinguished academic career, receiving the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from Dalhousie University in Halifax and also from Oxford University in English. He returned to PEI in 1922 and read law with A.C. Saunders, who was also a former premier of the Province in Summerside.

Campbell's entry into the political life of Prince Edward Island was a bit unusual in that he served for a time as Attorney-General before he was elected to the Provincial Legislature. He was first elected in 1931. In 1935, he was again appointed Attorney-General in the administration of Premier Walter Lea and upon the death of Lea in January of 1936, Campbell was named Premier. Among his outstanding administrative achievements were the organization of a

provincial police system (now RCMP), the establishment of a National Park in the Cavendish-Dalvey area, the enactment of the Province's first public service legislation and the development of a sound budgeting control on the Island's finances.

Campbell was Premier at the outbreak of World War II and much of the energy of himself and his administration was dedicated to the involvement of PEI in the war effort. He resigned in 1943 to take up the appointment of Chief Justice of the province, a position he held until his retirement at the age of 75 in 1970. He held the position of Chief Justice for 27 years and only W.W. Sullivan had a longer record.

Thane Campbell was the first Premier in PEI to see the premiership of the Province pass into the hands of his son, Alexander Campbell.

Alexander Campbell:

Alexander was born in Summerside on December 1st, 1933 and is the son of Thane Campbell, former Premier and Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island. Following his early education in Summerside, Alexander entered Dalhousie University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then went on to Dalhousie Law School where he obtained his degree in law and was admitted to the Bar of Prince Edward Island in 1959.

In 1965, Campbell entered Provincial politics by contesting and winning a by-election in the Fifth district of Prince in February. In December 1965, Mr. Campbell was elected Leader of the Liberal party. In the General Election of 1966, Campbell led the Liberal party to victory over the Progressive Conservative party led by Premier Walter R. Shaw. Alexander became one of the youngest Canadians ever to be elected as Premier of a Province. Premier Campbell returned to the electorate in May 1970 for another mandate winning twenty-seven of the thirty-two seats. Following the election, Premier Campbell was sworn in as Minister of Development and held that portfolio until May 1972, when he was sworn in as Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

During his term in office, Campbell concentrated on developing programs and policies to strengthen the Province's economy, to better the social conditions of the citizens and to foster greater understanding and respect of the Province's history and culture traditions. Premier Campbell established by legislation the PEI Heritage Foundation, an organization now actively at work in preserving the Island's history.

Premier Campbell's government also promoted legislation which established a number of new government agencies designed to assist Islanders in improving their economic positions, such as the Land Development Corporation and the PEI Lending Authority have played an active role in PEI's economic development. Honourable Alex Campbell was appointed to the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island in November 1978 and retired in December 1994.

Joe Ghiz:

Joe Ghiz a Charlottetown lawyer and son of a Lebanese corner store owner who would successfully win the leadership of the Liberal Party in 1981. He would lead the party into the election of 1982 and become the leader of the Opposition. Joe Ghiz was elected PEI's and Canada's first Premier of non-European descent in 1986 with the key issues being the Litton Company deal, Equal Pay Legislation and later in the campaign the issue of his Lebanese background. That later became a personal issue for Ghiz when the editor of the local Evening

Patriot newspaper was asked by a member of the national media if his race would be an issue, Mr. Ghiz replied with a statement to this issue and his speech along with his promise to enact a law of equal pay for equal work. Best known for his speech making, his love for Canada, his stance on the Meech Lake accord, and a plebiscite regarding the fixed link to New Brunswick. He registered to become dean of Law at Dalhousie in 1992 and would later become a Supreme Court Judge of PEI in 1995. Ghiz passed away a year later in 1996 as a result of colon cancer.

Robert Ghiz:

In April 2003, Robert Ghiz the son of former Premier Joe Ghiz left his job in Ottawa working in the Prime Minister's office to pursue the leadership of the Liberal Party of PEI. After securing the victory, Robert led his Liberal Party into the provincial election in September 2003. In this election Ghiz would not face any questions about his background. The only thing said was that he was "Joe's Son". Robert Ghiz did a wonderful job taking on a popular Premier Pat Binns. Despite losing the election Robert would win his seat and become leader of the Opposition. In the general election of 2007, Robert led the Liberal party to a twenty-three to four victory and became the second Premier Ghiz.

Notable People of Prince Edward Island Quiz

- 1) _____ was one of the youngest Canadians ever to be elected as Premier of a Province and established by legislation the PEI Heritage Foundation.
- 2) _____ is only one of two Islanders to be accorded the honours of a Federal State Funeral and Rt. Hon. Pierre E. Trudeau delivered the eulogy.
- 3) _____ published 20 novels, over 500 short stories, an autobiography and a book of poetry.
- 4) _____ PEI's and Canada's first Premier of non-European descent who key issues involved equal pay and the Litton Company deal.
- 5) _____ was the first women in PEI to hold both offices of Deputy Speaker of the House and Speaker of the House.
- 6) _____ was responsible for the launching of Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture.
- 7) _____ is the fortieth Lieutenant Governor of the Province of PEI
- 8) _____ was the first Premier in PEI to see the premiership of the Province pass into the hands of his son.
- 9) _____ was a delegate to the NATO Parliamentary Conference in Paris as well as conferences in Toyko, Rome and Helsinki.
- 10) _____ left his job working in the Prime Minister's office to pursue the leadership of the PEI Liberal Party.

Answers to Quiz

- 1) Alexander Campbell
- 2) Daniel MacDonald
- 3) Lucy Maud Montgomery
- 4) Joe Ghiz
- 5) Hon. Marion Reid
- 6) Walter R. Shaw
- 7) Hon. Barbara Hagerman
- 8) Thane Campbell
- 9) Angus MacLean
- 10) Robert Ghiz