

A Quest Biography 34

Prince Edward, Duke of Kent

Father of the Canadian Crown

By (author): [Nathan Tidridge](#)

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It was to Quebec City, the old capital of New France, that the 24-year-old Prince Edward Augustus arrived with his regiment, the Royal Fusiliers (7th Regiment of Foot), in 1791. Exiled from court for his lavish spending habits, the prince was accompanied by his long-time mistress Julie de St. Laurent. Together they found themselves immersed in a society struggling for an identity.

Even though much of Prince Edward's time on the continent was filled with pleas to be sent away from it, he still became an important part of a highly charged society, deeply scarred by social and political divisions. If only Edward, shivering in the cold of his first Canadian winter, could have foreseen that more than 75 years later Canada would be united under the crown of his daughter, Queen Victoria.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTOR

Nathan Tidridge was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for his 15 years of volunteer support in the education of Canadians on the role of the Crown. He teaches Canadian history and government at Waterdown District High School and was awarded the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence (Teacher of the Year) in 2007. Nathan is the author of *Canada's Constitutional Monarchy*. He lives in Carlisle, Ontario.

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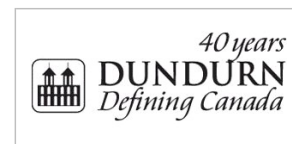
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