

Prince Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent, and Canada

- Born November 2nd, 1767, in London England. Prince Edward was the fifth child of King George III and Queen Charlotte.
- When he was of age, Edward was sent to Continental Europe for his training as a soldier. The young prince ran up his personal debts as he lived the life of a prince.
- Heavily indebted, Edward was eventually sent to Gibraltar with the 7th Regiment of Foot (Royal Fusiliers). The hot weather disagreed with him, and the prince wrote to his father asking to have his regiment reassigned to Quebec.
- Prince Edward lived in Quebec City with his mistress Julie de St. Laurent from 1791-1793, stepping into the centre of Lower Canadian society. Moving easily between circles of French Canadiens, English elites and American Loyalists alike, Edward symbolized the Crown as the scaffolding in which modern Canada would emerge. Touring much of Lower Canada, Prince Edward resided in the heart of the ancient capital of New France (holidaying at nearby Montmorency Falls). **Trying to quell a political riot in Charlesbourg, Quebec, Edward became one of the first people to apply the term “Canadian” to both French and English inhabitants of the region – being a member of the Royal Family added weight to such an assertion.**



Portrait of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent (1767-1820), that hangs in the salon of Nova Scotia's Government House.



- Seigneur Louis and Françoise-Catherine de Salaberry and their family befriended Prince Edward and his French mistress Julie de St. Laurent. All of the de Salaberry sons became protégés of the Prince (Edward and Julie stood as godparents to the youngest, Édouard-Alphonse), who nurtured their military careers. Tragically, all the de Salaberry sons, except Charles-Michel, died serving the Crown during the Napoleonic Wars.

Plaque outside the Quebec City residence of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent. The building now houses the French Consulate. The dates of residency should read 1791-3.

- Charles-Michel de Salaberry saw action during the War of 1812, leading the Voltigeurs Canadiens in a stunning victory against an American invasion force at the Battle of Châteauguay (October 26th 1813). As Duke of Kent, Edward made sure that his protégé ("The Hero of Lower Canada") was recognized for his accomplishment.



This piece by artist Charles Pachter commemorates the meeting of Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe and His Royal Highness Prince Edward Augustus at Newark in 1792. Edward's visit to Newark (then the provincial capital) was part of the first royal tour to Upper Canada (conducted less than a year after the province was created by the 1791 Constitution Act). A print of this piece now hangs in the vice-regal suite of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

- Prince Edward visited Upper Canada (Ontario) eight months after its creation by the proclamation of the Constitution Act of 1791 (becoming the first member of the Royal Family to visit the area). Touring the various Loyalist settlements (Cornwall, Kingston, and the other Royal Townships) in the new province, as well as meeting with delegations of First Nations, Edward helped foster a new British identity for Upper Canada. Hosted by Lieutenant Governor Simcoe in Newark, Prince Edward made a point of visiting forts Niagara and Scholsser (inserting himself in a boundary dispute with the United States).
- Edward also became the first member of the Royal Family to visit the United States (post-rebellion) when he travelled to Boston on his way to the Caribbean in 1793.
- Prince Edward spent the majority of his time on the continent in Halifax (1794-1800), traveling extensively throughout the province (and neighbouring New Brunswick). Edward is responsible for important building projects across Nova Scotia, including such iconic structures as Halifax's Garrison Clock and Fort Anne's Officer's Quarters. Parts of the Prince's innovative telegraph system (at one point connecting the province to New Brunswick, with plans to push north to Quebec) were used in defense plans for Halifax during the War of 1812.

- Originally appointed commander-in-chief of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Prince Edward (after being created Duke of Kent) was promoted to commander-in-chief of British North America. For both appointments, Edward established himself in Halifax creating a golden age for the settlement.
- On June 3rd, 1799, the Island of St. John changed its name to become the greatest memorial to Prince Edward's time on the continent. Although Edward never visited the island (there were plans for a Royal tour before the Duke was injured during a riding accident in 1800), the fortifications he ordered for Charlottetown ensured its protection from possible invasions by the sea (a problem during the settlement's history).
- Today, the coat of arms used by the province of Prince Edward Island (officially known as "The Queen's Arms in Right of Prince Edward Island"), officially granted by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson in 2002, include a gold lion passant on a red background - a design taken from the personal arms of Prince Edward.
- Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, left Canada in 1800 to settle first in England, and then Belgium, as he tried to pay off his debts.
- In 1817 Princess Charlotte of Wales, daughter of the Prince of Wales (and Prince Regent George), died while giving birth to a son. The death of the princess triggered a succession crisis because there were no legitimate heirs left to the British throne within George III's immediate offspring:



Children of King George III & Queen Charlotte:

King George III & Queen Charlotte														
George	Frederick	William	Charlotte	Edward	Augusta	Elizabeth	Ernest	Augustus	Adolphus	Mary	Sophia	Octavius	Alfred	Amelia

- Edward was forced to leave his long-time mistress, Julie de St. Laurent, and marry Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld in 1818. They had one child, Princess Alexandrina Victoria, on May 24th, 1819.
- Edward contracted pneumonia and died on 23 January 1820 at Woolbrook Cottage, Sidmouth, Devon.
- King George III died six days later, and the Crown passed to his oldest son, now King George IV.
- King George IV lived until June 26th, 1820, until he died without a direct heir. The Crown then passed to George III's next living son who became King William IV (Prince Frederick had died in 1827).

- King William did not have any legitimate children, so when he died in 1827 the Crown passed to Edward's surviving child, Princess Victoria.
- Queen Victoria reigned from 1827-1901, becoming the "Mother of Confederation" in 1867.

