

Prince Edward County

Million Year Timeline

1 million years ago – A glacier moving in from the north-east, causing the crevasses that became Roblin Lake and Lake on the Mountain; sand from this till forms the famous sand dunes

10,000 BCE – The glacier recedes, and the area becomes populated by mammoths, caribou, and its first human inhabitants, the "Paleo-Indians"

1500 BCE – The "Mound Builders" leave remains in the area, including the mounds that house the remains of their leaders and give the people their name

500 CE – The Early Iroquois dot the area with small villages of up to 150 people, and continue to expand these communities until 1250 CE, when beans and squash are introduced as new crops

1550 CE – The Iroquois move northwest to form the Huron Confederacy; Prince Edward County is left as a "no man's land" between them and the Five Nation Iroquois to the south of Lake Ontario, which was later taken over by the Mississauga

1615 CE – Samuel de Champlain becomes Prince Edward County's first recorded European visitor, travelling with a Huron group to attack members of the Five Nations

1667 CE – Peace is made between the natives and the French colonists

1687 CE – Denonville, governor of New France, breaks this peace by sending Iroquois leaders to France as slaves, forcing Prince Edward County to once again become a no man's land between the French and the Iroquois

1775-1783 CE – Revolt of the British colonies sends waves of over 51,000 Loyalist refugees to the remaining British colonies in North America; 6000 to Upper Canada, and 500 to Prince Edward County

1791 CE – The Canada Act (or, the Constitutional Act) splits the colony of Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada (modern-day Ontario and Quebec, respectively); Upper Canada is further split into 19 counties, of which Prince Edward was the tenth

1792 CE – Grants of land are offered to all who swore an oath of loyalty to the Crown and pay the fees for filing the claim, bringing on another wave of Loyalists, as well as continuing immigrants from Europe

1812 CE – The Prince Edward militia is called to fight in the War between Britain and the U.S.; American warships pass by the shores of the County, but no fighting takes place on County soil

1831 CE – The District of Prince Edward is approved, conditional on a Courthouse and Gaol being built

1838 CE – The Prince Edward militia participates in a small rebel force in Napanee, to show that the bulk of the County's population did not condone armed insurrection against the Crown

1860 CE – The County's economy prospers, with the advent of barley and hops as exports to the U.S., as well as the shipping trade and ship building industry

1867 CE – A former County resident, Sir John A. Macdonald, becomes the first Prime Minister of the newly-united Dominion of Canada

1881 CE – The first canning factory is built in Prince Edward County; it is only the second to be built in Canada, and by 1902, about one-third of all canned fruits and vegetables produced in Canada come from the County

1890 CE – The McKinley Tariff is passed by the U.S. Congress, forcing County farmers to switch from barley and hops to canning and dairy

1914 CE – Over 800 men from Prince Edward County see active service in World War One, and 150 of these do not return home after the war ended in 1918

1920 CE – The Federal Government amalgamates the 16th Prince Edward Regiment and the 49th Hastings Rifles into the collective Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, known as the "Hasty Pees"

1930 CE – Rum running in Lake Ontario, a source of livelihood for unemployed fishermen, is put to a stop by the U.S. Coast Guard early in the decade

1931 CE – The Great Depression causes the population of Prince Edward County to drop at this point to just 16,700

1939 CE – The Hasty Pees are mobilized for active service in World War Two; citizens of Prince Edward County serve in nearly all branches of service and theatre of operations

1998 CE – The various villages and hamlets of the County are amalgamated into the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward

Source: Prince Edward County Public Library