



FÊTES DU
PATRIMOINE
DU CANADA | CANADA'S
HERITAGE
FAIRS

PEI Provincial Heritage Fair Program

Background

The Heritage Fair program is an educational initiative that provides an opportunity for students to explore any aspect of Canadian heritage by creating a dynamic history project for public presentation. In Prince Edward Island, the Provincial Heritage Fair is coordinated by the Department of Tourism and Culture. A Planning Committee with representatives from the Department of Tourism and Culture, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, teachers, the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation, Parks Canada and other heritage organizations plan and carry out the Provincial Heritage Fair held each May.

Students use the medium of their choice to tell stories and share information about Canadian heroes and legends, milestones and achievements.

Prince Edward Island's involvement with the Heritage Fair program began in 1995 when Charlottetown hosted the first national Heritage Fair sponsored and organized by the Historical Foundation. Since then, the program has grown to include numerous school-based fairs across the Island, and a Provincial Heritage Fair held each May. Canada's History Society provides national coordination of the Heritage Fair Program, including the Young Citizens national video program. Further details on Canada's History Society's youth programs is found here :

www.heritagefairs.ca

Goals and Objectives

- To heighten awareness of Canadian heritage
- To celebrate Canada's cultural diversity
- To promote and publicize the variety and uniqueness of our heritage
- To create an exciting learning environment for students of social studies
- To encourage individuals and communities to celebrate their part in Canada's history.

Heritage Fairs

School Fairs

Every year the provincial Heritage Fair Committee asks schools across the province to indicate if they will be hosting a school-based fair and if they will be participating in the Provincial Heritage Fair. Registration forms are found on-line at www.gov.pe.ca/tourism/heritagefair and are due in

December. School Fairs are usually held between January and April. While the goal of the Heritage Fair program is to be non-competitive, schools are invited to select representative projects for the Provincial Fair. Selection is often based on a judging process.

Provincial Heritage Fair

The Provincial Heritage Fair brings together approximately 200 students from close to 30 schools. Schools are informed of how many students are eligible to attend the Provincial Fair based on the total number of students participating at the school level. Held in early to mid May, the Provincial Fair is a day-long event that includes judging to select top student projects at each grade level. A number of local organizations sponsor prizes for theme-related categories. Students have the opportunity to take an afternoon workshop or tour, prior to the Closing Ceremonies.

Organizing a School-Based Heritage Fair

Getting Organized

The level of organization required will depend on the size of your fair. Will it involve a single class or the whole school? A fair involving a single class can be looked after by an interested teacher. Larger fairs take more planning and may benefit from an organizing committee. See also *Planning a school fair. A guide for the School Coordinator* found at www.gov.pe.ca/tourism/heritagefair

Who Will be Involved?

Will participation in the heritage fair be voluntary or mandatory? Some teachers use the heritage fair program as a class project, others view it as an extra-curricular activity. Schools are encouraged to involve children from grades 4-9 in school based fairs but **the Provincial Heritage Fair is open to students in grades 5-9 only.**

When and Where to Hold the Fair

When you have your fair is up to you. However, student registrations for the Provincial Fair must be in one month prior to the Provincial Fair. Make sure that your fair doesn't conflict with other major school activities.

Choose a location that suits the scale of your fair. Smaller fairs are often held right in the classroom. Larger events may require a gym, library or community hall. Whatever the venue, many schools organize their fairs so that other students, parents and even members of the public can view the projects. Public display is one of the goals of the program.

Judging

While the Heritage Fair program is non-competitive, schools must decide which students will attend the Provincial Fair. This decision is often based on a judging process. Smaller fairs often have teachers act as judges. Larger fairs commonly recruit volunteers to take on this role.

Here are some suggestions on how to organize your judging:

- Decide on what your judging criteria will be. Sample judging forms are available from the Provincial Fair Coordinator and the rubric used at the Provincial Fair is found on our website www.gov.pe.ca/tourism/heritagefair.
- Determine how many judges you'll need. Ideally each project will be judged by different judges on two separate occasions.
- Make a list of individuals who you can contact. Teachers, retired teachers, museum staff, local historians may be available to assist with judging.
- Prepare a package to be sent to judges giving information on how the judging will take place. This package should include the time, the place, the evaluation form they will be using, and include a sheet of questions the judges can ask.
- Prepare the judging package that will be given to the judges the day or night before of the your fair. It should include a name tag, a list of projects to be judged and evaluation forms.
- Have volunteers around to help judges find their projects
- Plan a judges' orientation to take place half an hour before the fair begins
- Send out thank you notes to those who volunteered as judges.
- Depending on the length of time judging may take, it might be a nice gesture to offer refreshments or a light lunch.

Suggested questions for judges

Your judges will find that some students have prepared an oral presentation, others may need a bit of coaxing. Some questions they might ask are:

- Tell me about your project.
- Why did you pick this topic?
- What was the most interesting thing your learned while doing this project?
- What sort of research did you do for your project?
- Were you able to find primary resources?
- Did you interview anyone for information?
- Did you find any surprises in your research?
- Where did you get the idea for your project?
- How long did it take to do your project?
- If you had more time, is there anything your would have changed or added?
- How did you do your display? Video? etc.

A sample judging rubric is found at www.gov.pe.ca/tourism/heritagefair

Heritage Fair Project Guidelines

The program is non-competitive in nature, with an emphasis on the importance of the learning process and the exchange of ideas. Projects eligible for presentation at the Provincial Heritage Fair must come from students in grades 5 to 9. Projects can be created by individuals or in groups.

The Heritage Fair program allows for a lot of organizational flexibility. The one constant in the program is the nature of the projects themselves. Following these guidelines will ensure that your projects will be acceptable at the provincial level.

- All projects must have a Canadian theme—history, geography, heritage or culture—and involve research conducted by the participant(s).
- Students may submit their project in either of Canada’s two official languages.
- Projects may be accompanied by written research undertaken by the student(s) in the course of developing the project.
- All submissions must be mainly student produced, although it is recognized that teachers or other adult advisors might help students.
- Teachers should ensure projects are historically correct.
- All presentations must avoid profanity, racial or sexist remarks, innuendo, negative stereotypes or other potentially offensive matter.
- Any person/organizations clearly identifiable in a presentation must have given permission to the presenter to use the image.
- Projects are the responsibility of the participants. The Heritage Fair cannot be responsible for any projects lost, stolen or damaged while left unattended.
- Students attending the Provincial Heritage Fair must be registered with the Provincial Heritage Fair Committee. Some student information is required including: a brief description and title of the project, the student’s full name, school and grade, whether the student will be presenting in English or French, name of contact teacher(s) and parent(s)/guardian(s) signature.

Projects may be submitted in either a single format or any combination of the following formats:

A: 3-Dimensional

B: Creative Writing and Performance

C: Multimedia Presentations

A. 3-Dimensional

Projects could be specific to one period of time, or they could display development and progression from past to present. Projects should be suitable for table display and should not exceed 2 feet by 4 feet or 150 cm in width, 100 cm in height or 80 cm in depth.

Student projects may include but are not limited to:

- models
- crafts
- videos
- 3-dimensional artistic displays
- demonstrations
- photography
- posters
- maps
- computer displays
- collections
- dioramas
- caricatures

For ideas on developing a heritage fair exhibit see the document *Exhibit guide for student projects* developed by Historic Resources branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism at www.gov.pe.ca/tourism/heritagefair

B. Creative Writing and Performance

Presentations and performances must not exceed 15 minutes. Students are encouraged to use their own means of cultural expression to prepare and communicate stories about Canadian history.

Short Stories and Diary Entries

Length must be 2-11 pages.

Legibility, style and grammar will be considered.

Poetry

Minimum length - 14 lines.

Legibility, style and grammar will be considered.

Scripts

Scripts must be:

2-6 pages for grades 5-6;

5-10 pages for grades 7-9.

Music and Dance

Presentation of music and dance can be in any form: classic, contemporary or alternative. Possible ideas for projects include the performance of folk songs, construction of simple musical instruments, and composition of original works.

Debate and Public Speaking

Projects could be re-enactments of historic speeches and debates, or a modern day debate about historic events.

Drama

Presentations may be of existing or original work.

C. Multimedia

The maximum size of displays must not exceed 2 feet by 4 feet or 150 cm in width, 100 cm in height, 80 cm in depth.

Students are responsible for any special equipment needs including computer hardware and software. The Provincial Heritage Fair Planning Committee does not supply any technical equipment.

Computer based

All submissions must be on disk, CD Rom or Zip disk. Projects should be undertaken by the student(s) with minimal technical assistance from teachers/parents/guardians. Submissions must include all credits.

Video

All submissions must be in VHS or DVD format and must not exceed 15 minutes in duration. All videos should be written and directed by students with minimal technical support from teachers or advisors. Submissions must include a title and credits.

Audio Tape

All submissions must be on 1/4" audio cassette or CD and must not exceed 5 minutes duration. Submissions must include a title and credits.

Photographs

All photographs must be the original work of the presenter. All photographs and equipment are the responsibility of the presenter. Photographs must have a title or be part of a labelled display.

Artwork

All artwork must be the original work of the presenter, and may include maps, paintings, drawings, prints, posters or other visual work not mentioned above.

Heritage Fair Project Ideas with a Prince Edward Island Theme

Topics	Examples
famous politicians	George Coles, Edward Whelan, Aubin-Edmond Arsenault
Lieutenant Governors	Edmund Fanning, C.D. Smith
famous women	Georgina Fane Pope, Mona Wilson, Jean Canfield
Mi'kmaq	culture, history, treaties
settlement	settlement by the Irish, Acadian, Lebanese
land issue	land lottery, tenant league, escheat movement
surveyors	Samuel Holland, George Wright, Admiral Bayfield
Confederation	pros and cons
famous sports heroes	Lou Campbell, Bill Halpenny, Charlie Ryan
celebrations	Canada Day, Victoria Day, Feast of the Assumption
cities, towns, villages	the history of: Charlottetown, Summerside, Souris
historic buildings	Province House, Farmers' Bank of Rustico
historic building styles	Queen Anne Revival, Romanesque, Georgian
historic architects	W.C. Harris, George Baker, John Plaw
historic transportation	horses, steamships, railways, iceboats
catastrophes	fires, shipwrecks, plagues
industry	shipbuilding, brick making
furniture making	Chappell, Wilt, Baker, Butcher
farming and fishing	mussel mud, oyster fishing, dairy farming
early newspapers	the <i>Journal</i> , the <i>Progress</i> , <i>L'Impartial</i>
artists	Robert Harris, Fanny Bayfield, Mary Allison Doull
writers	L.M. Montgomery, Sir Andrew Macphail, Gilbert Buote
doctors	Dr. Roddie MacDonald, Isidore Gallant, Dr. Gus MacDonald
folklore	folksongs, ghost stories
natural history	rivers, dune systems, forests
genealogy	What is the history of your family?
archaeology	the Roma settlement, Port-la-Joye, the Jones site

Where to do Research

There are lots of places to find information for Heritage Fair projects. Some places to visit include:

- school and local libraries
- local museums, heritage sites and centres
- the provincial archives
- family members and neighbours, local historians
- Internet sites

Don't forget that many of the richest resources are the people within the community. Parents, grand-parents, neighbours and others may have first-hand experience of any given topic. Talking to these people will help give historical facts personal perspective. The Public Archives and Records Office has a *Guide to Sources for Heritage Fair Projects* available at www.gov.pe.ca/tourism/heritagefair.

What Makes a Great Heritage Fair Project?

A great Heritage Fair project is more than a collection of historical facts copied from books or the Internet and stuck up on bristle board. Heritage is an exploration of what our history means to us, what we feel is important about the past. Books can tell you when the East Point lighthouse was built, but what did the beacon mean to your grandfather who fished out of North Lake? The best Heritage Fair projects start with good historical research and then make connections with our everyday lives.

Contact Information

For more information on the Heritage Fairs program contact:

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Information on the PEI Provincial Heritage Fair, including applicable forms, is found online at www.gov.pe.ca/tourism/heritagefair.