

## Lieutenant Governor's Award - Dr. Edward MacDonald, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



A native Prince Edward Islander, Dr. Edward MacDonald has been an important member of its heritage community for three decades. Known as Dr. Ed, he has served as editor, curator, teacher, policy advisor, heritage advocate, media resource, author, poet and outstanding public speaker.

Armed with a BA in History and English from the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) and a MA and PhD in History from Queen's University, Dr. MacDonald began his career as curator with the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation in 1985, where he also edited its popular history journal, *The Island Magazine*.

In 2000, Dr. MacDonald joined the faculty of the UPEI as Associate Professor of History, a position that has garnered him numerous awards for excellence in the classroom. His Applied Public History course has inspired many graduates to pursue work in heritage related fields.

Dr. MacDonald's passion for history and interest in how the Island community has interacted with the natural and built environment have also led to his successful career as an author. He has written five books, co-authored two more and edited two anthologies about Island history. His book, *If You're Stronghearted: Prince Edward Island in the Twentieth Century* (2000) was awarded the PEI Museum's Heritage Award, as well as an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Canadian Museum Association. Dr. MacDonald has also written and co-authored nearly fifty articles for publications like *Acadiensis*, *Dalhousie Review* and *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography*.



While a thorough and meticulous scholar, Dr. MacDonald insists that his work also be accessible to the general public. His flair for making heritage conservation come to life has made him a highly sought after public speaker.

This commitment to reach beyond the world of academia led Dr. MacDonald to volunteer on some thirty-five different boards and committees, including the PEI Council of the Arts, the Community Museum Association of Prince Edward Island, the Institute of Island Studies and the Canadian Catholic Historical Society. In this capacity he has helped guide the creation of a Master of Island Studies program at UPEI, convert the old Royal Bank Building in Charlottetown into a vibrant arts and culture centre, now known as The Guild, and oversee Saint Dunstan University's purchase and rehabilitation of the Bishop's Palace at St. Dunstan's Basilica for administrative and residential use.

Throughout his career, Dr. Edward MacDonald has understood that heritage conservation is about more than preserving bricks and mortar, it is about connecting the broader community to the history of streetscapes, landscapes, and the people who lived in them. As an historian, teacher and volunteer, he has devoted his career, and much of his personal time, to helping his community understand that heritage *matters*.

*Dr. MacDonald was nominated by Dr. David Keenlyside, executive director of the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation.*