

EXPLORER

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Annapolis Royal's Links to King Charles III

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In addition to a colourful, shared heritage with Great Britain, Annapolis Royal also has many direct ties to His Majesty King Charles III and The Royal Family. In 2006, Annapolis Royal was honoured with his Prince of Wales Award for outstanding stewardship of the built heritage. Over half of the buildings in Annapolis Royal are Federal, Provincial or Municipal registered heritage properties.

His Majesty King Charles III's great-great-great-grand-father, Prince Edward the Duke of Kent, built the Officers' Quarters at Fort Anne in Annapolis Royal in 1797 while serving as commander of the British forces in Nova Scotia. The Officers' Quarters he erected now serve as the museum building at Fort Anne, Canada's oldest National Historic Site.

One of the highlights in the museum is the 8' tall x 18' wide Heritage Tapestry. Over 4 years in the making, it was hand stitched by over 120 volunteers to commemorate 400 years of European settlement in our region. During this time in 1994, His Majesty King Charles III's mother, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, was on her way to Victoria, British Columbia for the opening of the Commonwealth Games. She put her personal mark on Annapolis Royal when she stitched in gold thread near the heart on the image of her great-great grandmother, Queen Victoria. A piece of the tapestry was taken to Government House in Halifax where Her Majesty graciously put in her gold stitches and signed Fort Anne's book.

The Diamond Jubilee of His Majesty King Charles III's great-great-great Grandmother, Queen Victoria, was celebrated on the grounds of Fort Anne in 1897 as depicted in the photo on the next page of children dancing around the Maypole. One of the Diamond Jubilee events in 2012 for His Majesty King Charles III's mother, Queen Elizabeth II, was also held at Fort Anne. A special reception was hosted at the Hillsdale House Inn by The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal and The Honourable Lieutenant Governor, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's representative in the province.

His Majesty King Charles III's great-grandfather, Prince George of Wales, later King George V, stayed at the Hillsdale House when he visited Annapolis Royal in 1884 while serving in the Royal Navy. He came for a four-day fishing trip. King George V signed the guest book, and the room in which he resided is coveted today by everyone who stays at the Hillsdale House Inn, 139 years later.

His Majesty King Charles III's brother, Prince Andrew, visited Annapolis Royal in 1985 on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Parks Canada and did a walk about the grounds of Fort Anne. His aunt, Princess Margaret, visited in 1957 and signed the guest book at St. Luke's Anglican Church.

His Majesty King Charles III is Head of The Church of England. The first Church of England service celebrated in Canada was held on the Fort Anne grounds in Annapolis Royal in October 1710.



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