

WOODSIDE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

ABOUT THE SITE:

Woodside is the boyhood home of William Lyon Mackenzie King, Canada's longest-serving Prime Minister. The house has been restored to the Victorian style of the 1890s. The importance of this residence is best reflected in King's own words: "The years that left the most abiding of all impressions and most in the way of family associations were those lived at Woodside."



HOW TO BOOK A VISIT:

To book a visit, call 519-571-5684 or email ont-woodside@pc.gc.ca.

THE PROGRAM:

The world of teenage William Lyon Mackenzie King was changing greatly in the 1890s. A game show introduces students to the time period and a revealing look at fashion demonstrates the varied roles of men and women. This program will encourage your students to compare living and working conditions, technological developments, and social roles experienced by a typical family at the end of the 19th century with similar aspects of life in present-day Canada.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS: GRADE 8 HISTORY

Overall Expectations

- Describe key characteristics of Canada between 1885 and 1914, including social and economic conditions, the roles and contributions of various people and groups, internal and external pressures for change, and the political responses to these pressures
- Use a variety of resources and tools to gather, process, and communicate information about the factors that shaped Canada as it was entering the twentieth century
- Compare living and working conditions, technological developments, and social roles near the beginning of the twentieth century with similar aspects of life in present-day Canada

Knowledge and Understanding

- Describe the factors contributing to change in Canadian society (e.g., immigration, technology, politics, globalization)
- Describe the achievements of individuals and groups in Canada who have contributed significantly to the technological development of Canada and the world and analyse the impact on society of new technologies
- Describe the social and working conditions of Canadians around the beginning of the twentieth century
- Describe how specific individuals and events helped change the position of women and children in Canada

Application

- Compare the challenges facing farmers and workers at the beginning of the twentieth century to those facing farmers and workers today
- Compare family roles at the beginning of the twentieth century to family roles today



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PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Introduce your students to the King family members who lived at Woodside more than 115 years ago (1886-93). A family tree is included to make this process easier.

Explain why William Lyon Mackenzie King was famous.

We have included the King Family Tree and an information sheet on Canadian Prime Ministers to aid in this process.

We suggest you view the video *Berlin 1893* in class before your visit. You can order a copy of this video from your Board office. The Public Board call numbers for this video are VC1667 (English) and VC2215 (French). The Separate Board call numbers for this video are 14270 (English) and 14271 (French). This video will give your students a good idea of what Berlin (Kitchener) was like in the late-Victorian period.



ON-SITE ACTIVITIES

The program provides your students with an opportunity to demonstrate a variety of skills in order to meet some of the Overall and Specific Expectations of the Ontario Curriculum.

This **two-hour program** introduces your students to the main issues, attitudes, and concerns of Canadians in the 1890's, with particular emphasis placed upon the changing roles of women and men and the effect that technology was having upon society. This program will encourage your students to **compare living and working conditions, technological developments, and social roles** experienced by a typical family at the end of the nineteenth century with similar aspects of life in present-day Canada.

After brief introductory comments, your students will participate in "The Talk of the Times" – a game show that will give your students some idea of what Canada in the 1890's was like. The show is humorous, interactive, and educational, and it doesn't require any great knowledge of Canadian history to play.

The class is then divided into **two groups**. (Please divide the class into two groups before your arrival to the site.)

Each group will start in a different area of the historic house, where your students will discuss what is changing in society at the time and what is prompting this change. The class will then be introduced to 1890s fashion (corsets, bustles, and gull-winged collars etc.) as we dress up two of your students in reproduction clothing. NOTE: We select students based on size (who can fit into the available clothing).



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POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Topics for Discussion: After your visit

1. Discuss the lifestyle of a middle class family in the late 19th century, as exemplified by the Kings, and compare it to today. Compare ambitions, status, comfort, leisure activities, careers, etc.
2. Which technological advances of the last half of the 19th century do you think had the most dramatic effect on lifestyles? Why? For example: telephone, electricity, sewage systems, running water, antiseptics.
3. One way to impress one's guests was to display plenty of silverware at the dinner table. What advance in technology made it cheaper for middle-class Victorians to do this?
4. What similarities and differences can you list between courtship in the late Victorian era and dating today? Which do you prefer?
5. Have a debate. For example debate the following: "It is resolved that working as a servant was better than working in a factory."
6. What evidence is there at Woodside to show that the Kings were:
 - a) living in an industrialized society
 - b) class-conscious
 - c) concerned about education



SUGGESTED WEB SITES

Note these sites were active as of September 2010.

For information about Woodside try this site:

- <http://pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/on/woodside/default.asp>
From here you can choose French or English.

For information about William Lyon Mackenzie King try these sites:

- <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/primeministers/>
This national library site has information about Mackenzie King and other prime ministers. It is also available in French.
- <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/king/index-e.html>
The national archives have recently made the diaries of Mackenzie King available on-line. The interactive site includes a teacher section.

To access a 1890's teenager's etiquette manual go to:

- <http://www.history.rochester.edu/ehp-book/yefhas/toc-m.htm>
From here students can find out how to behave at parties and the etiquette of cycling.

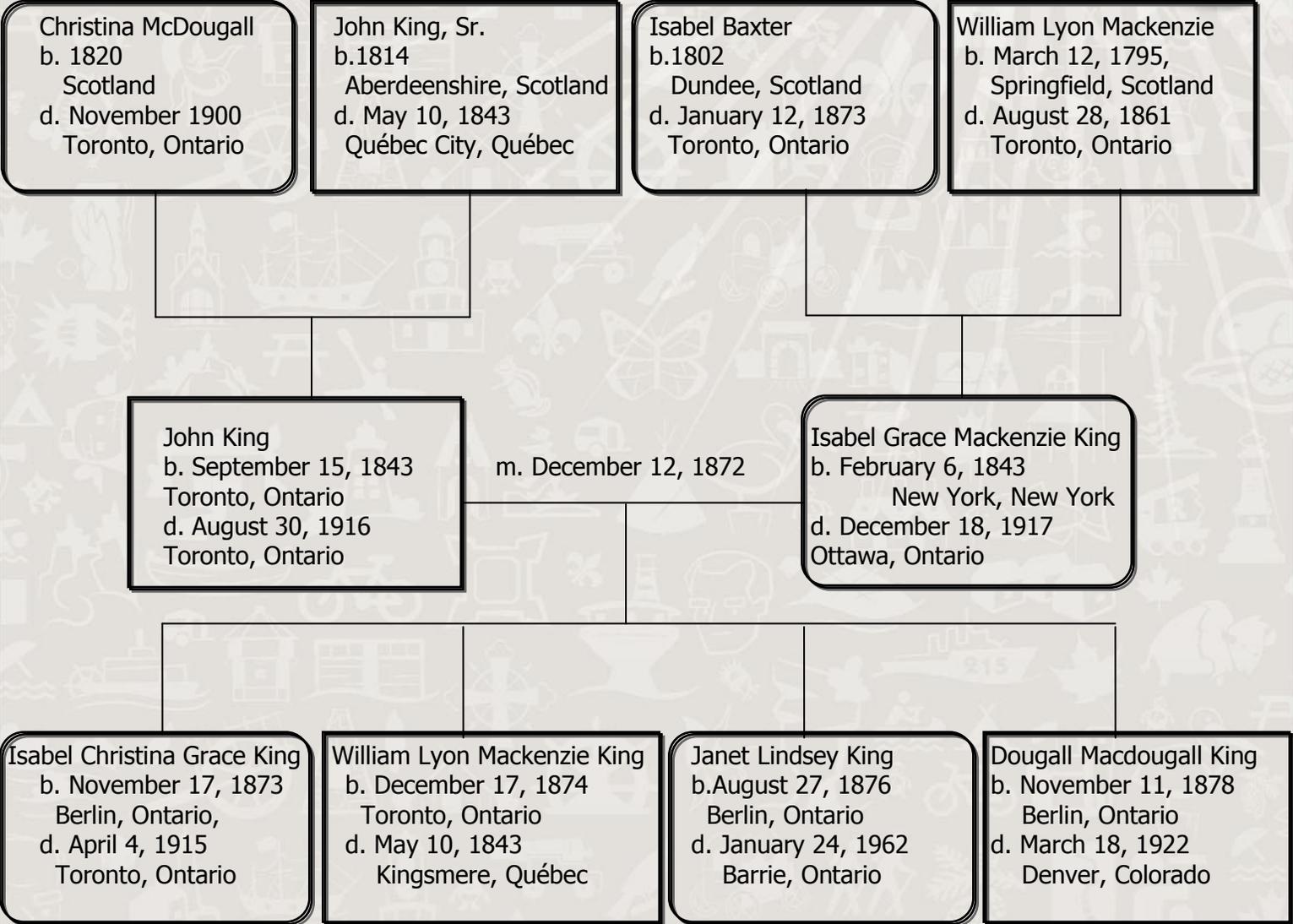


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KING FAMILY TREE



PRIME MINISTERS OF CANADA



Sir John A. Macdonald (1815-1891)	Conservative	1867-1873
Alexander Mackenzie (1822-1892)	Liberal	1873-1878
Sir John A. Macdonald	Conservative	1878-1891
Sir John Joseph Caldwell Abbott (1821-1893)	Conservative	1891-1892
Sir John Sparrow David Thompson (1845-1894)	Conservative	1892-1894
Sir Mackenzie Bowell (1823-1917)	Conservative	1894-1896
Sir Charles Tupper (1821-1915)	Conservative	1896-1896
Sir Wilfrid Laurier (1841-1919)	Liberal	1896-1911
Sir Robert Laird Borden (1854-1937)	Conservative	1911-1920
Arthur Meighan (1874-1960)	Conservative	1920-1921
William Lyon Mackenzie King (1874-1950)	Liberal	1921-1926
Arthur Meighan	Conservative	1926-1926
William Lyon Mackenzie King	Liberal	1926-1930
Richard Bedford Bennett (1870-1947)	Progressive Conservative	1930-1935
William Lyon Mackenzie King	Liberal	1935-1948
Louis Stephen St. Laurent (1882-1973)	Liberal	1948-1957
John G. Diefenbaker (1895-1979)	Progressive Conservative	1957-1963
Lester B. Pearson (1897-1972)	Liberal	1963-1968
Pierre Elliott Trudeau (1919-2000)	Liberal	1968-1979
C. Joseph "Joe" Clark (1939-)	Progressive Conservative	1979-1980
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Liberal	1980-1984
John N. Turner (1929-)	Liberal	1984-1984
M. Brian Mulroney (1939-)	Progressive Conservative	1984-1993
A. Kim Campbell (1947-)	Progressive Conservative	1993-1993
J. J. Jean Chrétien (1934-)	Liberal	1993-2003
Paul Martin Jr. (1938-)	Liberal	2003-2006
Stephen Harper (1959-)	Conservative	2006-

