

Mention PEI history, and one name quickly comes to mind: Dr. Edward MacDonald, affectionately known by his students and friends as Dr. Ed.

Dr. Ed grew up in Newport, PEI, took the fast track through elementary and high school, and entered UPEI at the age of 16 on a full-tuition scholarship. He graduated in 1978 with a bachelor of arts degree in history, and went on to Queens University to earn a master's degree in history in 1980 and a PhD in 1984. The title of his PhD was *And Christ Dwelt in the Heart of His House: A History of St. Dunstan's University, 1855-1956*. Saint Dunstan's is one of UPEI's two founding institutions.

After completing his formal education, Dr. Ed began his career in 1985 at the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation as curator of history and editor of its popular history journal, *The Island Magazine*. From 1997 to 2000, he was seconded to UPEI as Director of Research at the Institute of Island Studies.

In 2000, he joined the Department of History as an assistant professor—only one year later, he was honoured with the UPEI Faculty Association Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Student Union Faculty of the Year Award. Two years later, he won both awards again—a testament to his dedication to teaching and to his students.

Now a full professor, he has taught Canadian, Atlantic Region, and Prince Edward Island history. From 2015 to 2018, he served as chair of the Department of History and Classics. And he was instrumental in the creation of the University's Master of Island Studies program. He is a past president of the Canadian Catholic Historical Association and currently editor of its scholarly journal, *Historical Studies*.

He has authored, edited or co-edited eight books dealing with the social, political, religious, and environmental of Prince Edward Island and its environs, including the aforementioned *The History of St. Dunstan's University, 1855-1956* (1989); *If You're Stronghearted: Prince Edward Island in the Twentieth Century* (2000); and *Time and a Place: An Environmental History of Prince Edward Island*, (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2016). Along with Claire Campbell and Brian Payne, he is co-editor of *The Greater Gulf: Essays on the Environmental History of the Gulf of St. Lawrence*, which will be published by McGill-Queens in November. He has published some fifty articles in various academic and popular history venues, is in demand as a public speaker, has served on more than 35 community boards and committees, and is a resource to local media.

Among his awards and distinctions are the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for contributions to the culture and heritage of Prince Edward Island (2012); Heritage Canada's Lieutenant-Governor's Award (2014); the Canadian Catholic Historical Association's G. E. Clerk Award for outstanding service to the history of Catholicism in Canada (2016); the Award of Honour for lifetime achievement from the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation (2017); and the Foundation's Boyde Beck Memorial Award (2018) for contributions to the preservation of Island heritage.

Dr. Ed is widely known as the "go to" person on PEI for any and all historical comment; he is knowledgeable, funny, and an engaging professor who inspires students to learn. 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.

For all of this and so much more, the UPEI Alumni Association is proud to present Dr. G. Edward MacDonald with a 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award.