

Royal names and monuments in your community or province

Goals:

- To research the Canadian custom of naming different places in a community/province after members of the Royal Family and Royal events
- To catalogue and categorize the various types of such namings
- To learn about the people and events so named
- To improve your research and presentation skills

STEP ONE

Assembling and organizing a list of Royal names and events honoured in your community

NAMES AND EVENTS are most commonly found for streets (Prince Michael of Kent Drive); highways (Queen Elizabeth Way); parks (Jubilee Park); buildings (Princess Margaret Hospital). But there may be other references, as well – a sign at the base of a tree planted during a Royal Homecoming; a plaque on a rock in a park; a small brass plate on a framed picture indicating it was unveiled by a member of the Royal Family.

Depending on the size of your community, you may be able to search for such places by walking, biking, or being driven. Sometimes it may be more efficient to consult a listing of all street and building names which the Town Clerk's office should have at your Town Hall. Possibly a fire hall or local historical association will be able to assist you, as well, together with family members and friends, or a community newspaper archive.

Wherever possible, you should research the date and reason for the naming. For instance, Ontario's Queen Elizabeth Way was named to honour Queen Elizabeth, the wife of Canada's King George VI (whom you might remember as the Queen Mother), during Their Majesties' cross-country tour in 1939. Part of Nova Scotia's Route 106 was named the Jubilee Highway in 2012 to celebrate The Queen's 60 years on the Throne. Details add both authority and interest to your report.

What additional background information can you find? For instance, did the naming take place because of a Royal visit to your community? Because the Mayor or a municipal authority wanted it? Because of residents' asking for it? Was there controversy? Often re-naming a street or park attracts opposition. Did most Royal

naming occur in what was then a new subdivision or area of your city? Did/does a previous name continue to be used regardless of the formal re-naming? (For example, a Park was re-named King George Park in 1939, but everyone still refers to it as Murray Park.) Was the Royal Family individual asked for permission? Or were they just informed that a naming was taking place? Does your town have in its archives any of the correspondence that might have taken place about this? You might find a letter from a Royal or from a Royal staff member!

If you find no such names in your community, don't be discouraged. You have the opportunity to speak to town officials and long-time residents (your parents or teacher can assist you with making a contact) to discover why this is so. Is it because no Royal visitor ever came to your community? Do residents or council not feel any interest in the monarchy? Perhaps it never occurred to anyone to do so? This could make for a very interesting report, especially if you were to identify some un-named land or other feature that might be appropriate for a royal name.

As you find one or more such places or items, be sure to take photos or film of them for your report. Decide how to arrange your list. If you have found more than one commemoration, it may make sense to organize it by date, by area or by type (tree, street, building, etc

STEP TWO

Preparing your Report

DEPENDING ON YOUR TEACHER'S INSTRUCTIONS, you may share your findings by means of a written report, a slide show, a Power-Point presentation, a video, a sound recording or a combination of these.

Decide on the order of what you will present so that it flows logically with:

- (A) A clear beginning setting out what you are trying to explain
- (B) A central section which contains signposting of your main points
- (C) A summary which bundles together what you found out and reflects your views.

Example:

- (A) Our town contains three places named after members of Canada's Royal Family. They include...

(B) The second of these is the King George VI Bridge...

(C) Each of these places dates to a different time of our town's existence, so Royal events help to mark Anytown's history, as well...

As for all presentations to an audience (your classmates, a school assembly) begin preparing by asking yourself some important questions: what will most interest the hearers? what is the most surprising, or colourful, or unusual or little-known fact that I have uncovered in my research?

Your presentation should keep in mind two golden rules of public speaking:

1. Less is more! This means that you should not try to include everything you've learned: stick to the highlights and most interesting points – and let your classmates ask questions if they want to know more. On the other hand, simply listing three royal names found in your community without any background or human interest will make for a dull report!
2. Speak, don't read! Your presentation will be so much more effective if rather than reading a lengthy report (which the audience could do for themselves!) you speak naturally, make eye contact with your audience and seem really engaged with your subject. Confidence comes with practice – and with really knowing what you are talking about.