



Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site of Canada FACT SHEET

## The summer home of oil tycoon Alexander McDonald

### Background

Alexander McDonald, a Scottish-American oil tycoon, constructed Dalvay-by-the-Sea as a summer home in 1896. It was built in the Queen Anne Revival style under the supervision of Charlottetown architect Charles Chappell.

From the time of its construction until the death of Mr. McDonald in 1910, Dalvay was the scene of an extravagant and gracious lifestyle. The McDonalds had many visitors over the years, who often stayed for extended periods and participated in many summer activities.

Alexander and Laura McDonald had one daughter, also named Laura, who married a Cincinnati lawyer named Edmund Stallo. Laura died in 1895, which left her two daughters, Helena and Laura, in the care of their grandparents. The two girls were able to travel extensively with the McDonalds, and received an excellent education.

Mr. McDonald died in 1910, leaving an estate of \$15,000,000 to Helena and Laura Stallo. The two married European princes—Prince Murat of France and Prince Rospigliosi of Italy respectively. However, by 1930 their inheritance had all but disappeared under the mismanagement of their father. Their marriages were no more successful and ended in divorce.

Dalvay-by-the-Sea went through a succession of owners from 1930 to 1937, when the federal government acquired it for inclusion in Prince Edward Island National Park. It has since been operated as a resort hotel.

### Historic Photos



Dalvay-by-the-Sea, early 1900s.



Alexander McDonald, c. 1903.



## Milestones

### 1895

The McDonalds first visit Prince Edward Island.

### 1896

Dalvey-by-the-Sea is built.

### 1909

Alexander McDonald visits Dalvey for the last time.

### 1910

Mr. McDonald dies and leaves an estate of \$15,000,000 to his two granddaughters.

### 1930

The inheritance disappears and Dalvey is sold to William Hughes, the former caretaker. Hughes in turn sells it to William O'Leary.

### 1931

Well-known rumrunner Captain Edward Dicks purchases Dalvey with the intention of running it as a summer resort.

### 1936

Dicks goes bankrupt and Dalvey's ownership shifts to William Deblois, one of Dicks' creditors, and Lieutenant-Governor of the island. Deblois sells the property to the provincial government.

### 1937

Ownership is transferred to the federal government for inclusion in Prince Edward Island National Park.

### 1994

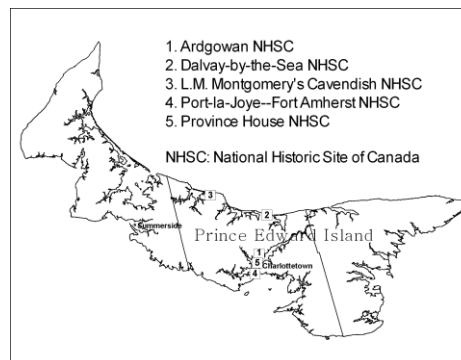
Dalvey-by-the-Sea is designated a National Historic Site of Canada.

## Want to know more?

### Dalvey-by-the-Seas National Historic Site of Canada

16 Cottage Crescent  
York, PEI CoA 1P0  
Telephone: (902) 672-6350  
Fax: (902) 672-6370  
Website: [www.parkscanada.gc.ca/dalvey](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/dalvey)

## Location



Dalvey-by-the-Sea is located on Route 6, in Prince Edward Island National Park.

## Reason for Historic Significance



Built between 1896 and 1899 by Alexander McDonald of Cincinnati, Dalvey-by-the-Sea is a fine example of a summer house in the Queen Anne Revival style.

Its picturesque form is animated by a profusion of bays, gables and dormers, by contrasting colours and textures, and by the use of local materials. Typical also of the style is the welcoming central hall with its large fireplace, wood paneling and second-floor gallery.

Dalvey highlights the stylishness of the Queen Anne Revival, which was favoured for Canadian domestic architecture in the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

-- Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, 1996