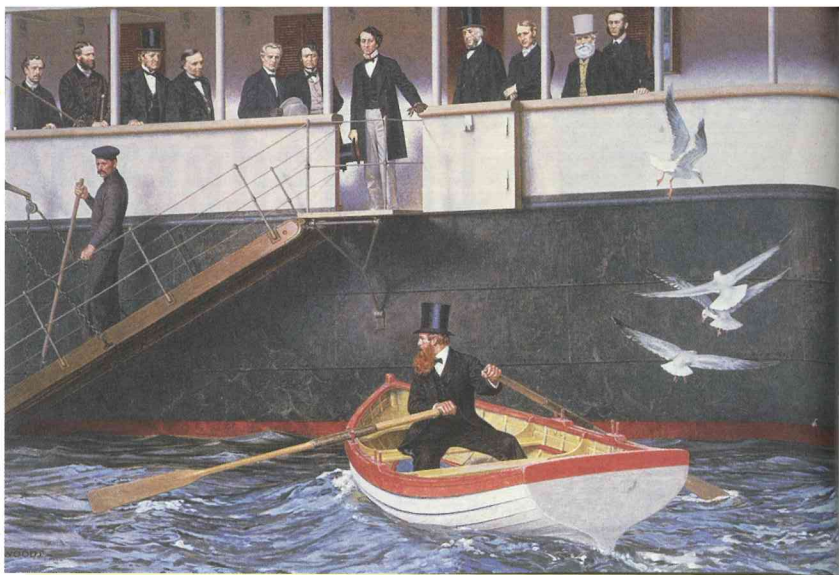


Confederation Conferences 1864

Before D'Arcy McGee's sudden assassination in 1868, the work toward Confederation had been underway for several years. There were many obstacles to overcome. In 1864, two conferences were held that changed the course of history for the British North American colonies.

The Charlottetown Conference

It is 1 September 1864. Delegates from the Province of Canada including John A. Macdonald, George Brown, D'Arcy McGee, Alexander Galt, and George Cartier have just stepped off the ship at Charlottetown. They have come to join in a conference organized by the Maritime colonies. The conference is to discuss a union of the Maritime colonies. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island had been talking about a union among themselves for several years. The Canadian politicians have come with their plan for an even wider union, one that would include Canada and the Maritimes.



Fathers of Confederation arrive for the Charlottetown Conference. PEI politician W. H. Pope rows out to greet them.

The speeches from the Canadian politicians are effective. They promise to build a railway connecting Canada and the Maritimes. They talk about the advantages of free trade between the colonies. Maritime fish and coal would find a large new market with the 3 million people living in the Canadas. The Maritime delegates are interested. They agree to meet with the Canadians to discuss the idea of Confederation further at another conference in Québec City in October.

The Charlottetown Conference Program

Friday, 2 September 1864

Speaker: George Cartier
Topic: "The Arguments in Favour of Confederation"

Luncheon: buffet luncheon of lobster, oysters, and other island delicacies at the home of W.H. Pope in Charlottetown

Saturday, 3 September 1864

Speaker: A.T. Galt
Topic: "How Finances Could be Arranged in the United Provinces"

Luncheon: Canadians host a party on board the *Queen Victoria*

Speaker: George Cartier
Topic: "Canada of the Future"

Speaker: George Brown
Topic: "The Dream of Canada Atlantic to Pacific"

Monday, 5 September 1864

Speaker: George Brown
Topic: "The Powers of the General Government and the Powers of the Local Government in Confederation"

Tuesday, 6 September 1864

Topic: "Other Reasons for Confederation"

Wednesday, 7 September 1864

Maritime delegates report on their decision about Confederation

Thursday, 8 September 1864

Supper and Grand Ball, Parliament Buildings, Prince Edward Island (speeches, dinner, dancing)