



**The visit of the
Prince of Wales
was important for many reasons.**

- a. First member of the Royal Family ever to visit North America.
- b. Visit to herald the coming union of 4 regions, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as the new Dominion of Canada.
- c. Mum, Queen Victoria had selected Ottawa as the new nation's capital in 1857.
- d. Opened Victoria Hall, a magnificent building in Cobourg, Ontario, still standing and in service.
- e. Drove the last rivet in and opened Victoria Bridge (crossing the St. Lawrence) in Montreal, still standing and in service; at the time, called the *Eighth Wonder of the World* because of its length, its innovative structure, huge cost, a symbol of British engineering.
- f. Laid the cornerstone of the new Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.
- g. Opened Queen's Park in Toronto.
- h. Huge celebrations welcomed him wherever he went.
- i. Canadian and US towns, cities and landscapes got world attention and notice because of international press coverage.
- j. The British monarchy got mostly positive press around the world, partly because of the freedom and self-government the Crown provided its colonies.
- k. At the time, he was the heir to the world's most powerful nation and empires.
- l. In an important sense, the visit prepared the Prince of Wales for becoming king; that is, the visit was a kind of course in kingship.