

Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Canada

Five Ages of Canada: A HISTORY From Our First Peoples to Confederation

A personal, intimate look at Canada, unabashed, meticulously informed – an insightful read as we turn 150.

Chris Hadfield

Colonel, Astronaut, best-selling author of *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth* and *You Are Here*

In this book Graham tells the story of Canada in terms of five distinct and progressive eras — his Five Ages — to Confederation coast-to-coast.

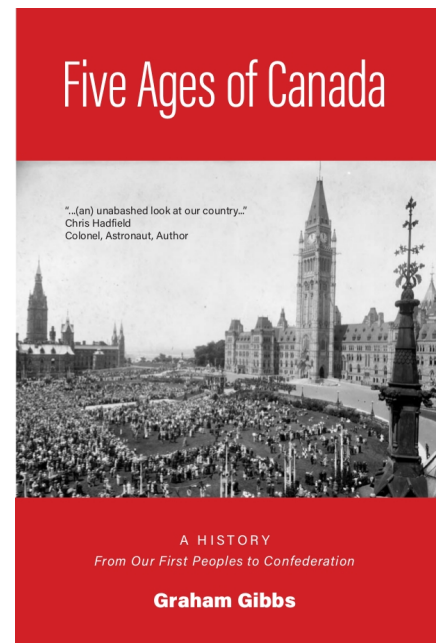
Vast in its scope yet personal in its perspective, *Five of Ages of Canada* illuminates the country's past in a riveting and original way, garnering deep appreciation and admiration for the people who were here first, and those who strove to achieve independent nationhood.

While there are many books about the history of Canada, the large majority deal with a particular era, person, or region, and many are academic (which are not everyone's favourite reading!)

Graham has taken a different approach. He has told the story of Canada to Confederation, in a non-academic fashion. Also, he has chosen what he believes are the five most important eras that brought Canada to Confederation. Between 2010 and 2015 Graham, and his wife Jay, made five major road trips coast-to-coast. During these trips, in their Canadian Roadtrek Class B camper van, they visited numerous historical and archeological sites and museums.

This book is the road trip of discovery across Canada that you've always wanted to take, with Graham along as your knowledgeable guide.

Chris Hadfield



Did you know Canada's first inhabitants arrived 12,000 years ago?

Graham's First Age introduces Canada's First Inhabitants: the Palaeo-Indians from Northern Asia, their descendants, and the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of today. There are now 700,000 First Nations peoples throughout Canada in 630 governments or bands, and there are 50,000 Inuit with 25,000 in the semi-autonomous territory of Nunavut. Graham writes passionately about our First Peoples. He provides examples that without their help his next four ages of Canada would have been quite different.

The fish are so thick a person "can walk across their backs."

John Cabot 1497

(Returning from an expedition to Newfoundland commissioned by King Henry VII of England)

With John Cabot's reporting on the huge fish stocks offshore Newfoundland it was not long before fleets from England, France, Portugal and the Basque Region of Spain spent the summers fishing offshore Newfoundland — they returned with salted cod. Thus began Graham's *Second Age of Canada*.

Surprisingly this seasonal fishing lasted for some one hundred years before permanent settlements were established in our Atlantic Province. In 1610 John Guy established the first settlement in Cupers Cove. Others would soon follow.

In 1500s Britain had claimed Newfoundland and France the Gaspé Peninsula. Between 1627 and 1763 four Wars in Europe spread to the New World. For Newfoundland the most significant was the War of the Spanish Succession. This ended with France ceding its claim to Newfoundland. However, France did retain offshore fishing rights until 1904.

Canada's multicultural society was nurtured by Samuel de Champlain

Samuel de Champlain is the undisputed Father of New France and the Métis. Graham's *Third Age of Canada* recounts his story, plus the battle for dominion between England and France. Champlain's story is an extraordinary tale of hardship, challenge, political and commercial manoeuvring, and above all good leadership and perseverance in the pursuit of a selfless ambition.

In 1605 Champlain and Pierre Dugua established the first permanent French settlement at Port Royale (now a National Historic Site) on the eastern shore of the Bay of Fundy. Just as Port Royale would become the epicentre of Acadia, Kebec (today Quebec City) would become the epicentre of New France. Champlain established Kebec in 1608. By the time of Champlain's death, in 1635, Kebec was still a relatively small settlement of some 400 people.

However, within four years 13,500 French settlers occupied the Saint Lawrence River Valley region.

The fourth European War that involved the New World was the Seven Years War (1755-1763). The famous battle on the Plains of Abraham took place on September 13, 1759. The Treaty of Paris, 1763 formally ended the Seven Years' War. It confirmed that all French possessions in North America were now British territories. The terms included many conditions that protected the rights of those French people who decided to stay — in the now British colony called the Province of Quebec. With the First Nations, Inuit, Métis and now the French in a British territory our multicultural nation was in the making.

It was during this time that some young Frenchmen began to leave the settlements for adventure in the fur trade — Graham's *Fourth Age of Canada*.

The Fur Trade was responsible for the exploration, mapping and eventual settlement of western Canada

The French began the fur trade out of Tadoussac in 1600. However, it was the British who matured the trade. It flourished for 200 years. In 1668 London merchants sent their ship the *Nonsuch* to the Hudson Bay. Their objective was to test reports that trading furs with the Cree Indians was a profitable venture — it was hugely profitable. Later King Charles II of England granted the London merchants a Charter for the *Company of Adventurers* (it would become known as the Hudson's Bay Company). The Charter granted the exclusive trading rights for the entire watershed of the Hudson and James Bays—it was called Rupert's Land.

But, the *Company of Adventurers* would eventually have serious competition from French and Scottish traders out of Montreal. After the Seven Years War, Scottish highlanders among others emigrated, with many settling in Montreal. The Montreal Scots teamed with the French Voyageurs, and in 1783 formed the North West Company.

The two companies had different business models. The Hudson's Bay Company for many years required the fur traders to travel to their shipping post on the Hudson Bay. The North West Company on the other hand took the trade to the traders. Unable to achieve dominance the companies merged in 1821.

David Thompson in Graham's opinion is one of Canada's greatest unsung heroes. If British diplomats had paid attention to Thompson's achievements the Canada-US border west of the Rockies would be the Columbia River i.e. most of Washington and Oregon would today be in Canada. For the full story you will have to read the book!

It was the American War of Independence (1776-1783) that would lead us to Graham's *Fifth Age of Canada* — our Road to Confederation.

Our Road to Confederation began with the War of 1812 and Rebellion

During the American War of Independence many United Empire Loyalists fled to what would become Canada — and more would come. Soon the 10,000 English speaking Loyalists residing in what is now southern Ontario wanted autonomy from their 145,000 French speaking neighbours. In response Britain split the Province of Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada.

The US unsuccessfully tried to annex British North America through the War of 1812. It was the continuing fear of annexation which led to Canada's Confederation. Later the French in Lower Canada and the English in Upper Canada became increasingly frustrated with the absolute power granted to the British Colonial Governors. This led to armed uprisings in 1837 and 1838. Britain's rather bizarre response to the uprisings was to re-unite Upper and Lower Canada into the (united) Province of Canada. The situation did however lead to a French-English dialogue.

After John A. Macdonald entered politics in 1844 he worked to transform the Upper Canada Conservative Party into Province of Canada Party — after winning elections he offered French Canadians co-Premierships.

In 1864 Macdonald's government fell but, John A's political foe Reform Party leader George Brown suggested a coalition government. This became known as *The Great Coalition*. It included: the Francophone Patriote Party, Liberal-Conservatives and the Reform Party. The coalition's primary objective was a federation or confederation of the British North American colonies. Coincidentally the colonies of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were planning a meeting to discuss a Maritime Union — Macdonald secured an invitation for Province of Canada.

The Maritime Union conference took place in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island in September 1864. John A proposed a Confederation of all the British North American colonies. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick accepted — Prince Edward Island did not accept. The parties met in Quebec City one month later, during which seventy-two resolutions were drafted. Britain, already anxious to divest itself of its responsibilities in North America, hosted the final negotiations in London. They began in December 1866 and ended in March 1867. During the negotiations the seventy-two Quebec resolutions were drafted into the British North America Act 1867.

The Act quickly passed through the Houses of Lords and Commons, and royal assent was granted on March 29. The new nation was to be called the "Dominion of Canada" and John A. Macdonald was asked to be Canada's first Prime Minister. The Act allowed for Canada to evolve coast-to-coast — a key dream for John A. Macdonald.

July 1st chosen as day of enactment of the Act — we know it today as "Canada Day."

In his book *Five Ages of Canada* Graham succinctly covers how we became a nation coast-to-coast-to-coast in the post-Confederation era. He highlights: the transfer of Rupert's Land to the Dominion of Canada; the Métis rebellions and the shameful hanging of its leader Louis Riel; the creation of the North West Mounted Police which would become the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; the importance of the Canadian Pacific Railway to those who would settle western Canada by establishing farmsteads; the British Columbia gold rush that resulted in many settling there; Newfoundland and Labrador's long road to Confederation, the creation in 1999 of Nunavut the semi-autonomous Inuit territory, and much more.

Five Ages of Canada is available from:

Friesen Press <http://www.friesenpress.com/bookstore>

Also: Chapters, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and many others.

Note: e-Books are also available for Kobo, Kindle and Nook, if the printed versions are too expensive for you. The Friesen Press e-Book is compatible with iPad and tablets.