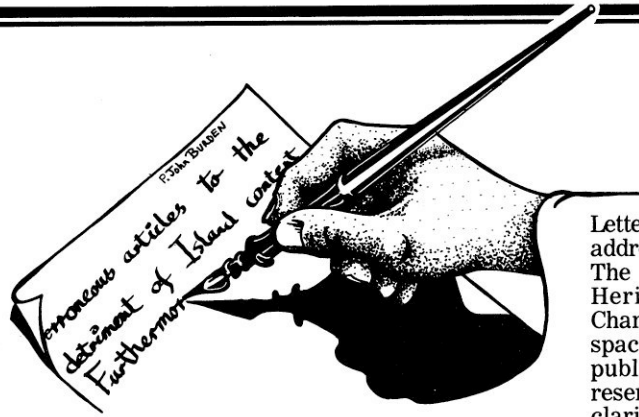


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# Letters To the Editor



Letters should be mailed, with your name and address, to The Editor, *The Island Magazine*, The Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation, 2 Kent St., Charlottetown, P.E.I., C1A 1M6. Because of space limitations, it may not be possible to publish all letters. The Magazine also reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

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Since its inception in 1976, The Island Magazine has lacked any means for "feedback". It has existed in a kind of vacuum, its success with the public measured in sales and in occasional private comments. That is not enough.

In starting a Letters page, the Magazine hopes to establish a dialogue with its readers. For you, it can be a forum to discuss specific articles or the Magazine generally. For us, it will provide an opportunity to listen and, where appropriate, to respond.

The process of establishing a "dialogue" really began during the last two summers, with a series of reader surveys sent to Magazine subscribers and to members of the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation. To launch the Letters page, we publish here excerpts from the responses. (Since they did not write for publication, the authors will remain anonymous.) Some of the comments are flattering; some are not. If nothing else, they prove that our readers have some definite ideas about The Island Magazine. And that is what a Letters section is all about.

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## Compliments . . .

Good magazine, well edited and printed. Would like to see some articles on early postal service problems and on the P.E.I. Railway.

It is very difficult to improve on perfection. I, of course, am biased, as many articles have been of extreme interest to me. The early photographic

essays, the passenger manifests, the Loyalist articles: all fit with my hobbies and interests. Take the article by Reg Carrington on Bay Fortune ghosts, for example. He was a next door neighbour for years and I've heard him tell those tales many times. By dwelling on the early social history of P.E.I., its people and experiences, you satisfy all my needs. Keep up the good work!

I'm glad that there is an *Island Magazine*. It was time someone decided to catch the interest of more and younger Islanders with the many interesting stories of our past. Keep them coming.

In fact, the vast majority of our readers are over 50.

Actually, if you changed nothing the Magazine would be just fine. Just see that I get my copy.

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## Criticism . . .

I find I do not have the time to read the longer articles. I also find the work of the same authors used over and over to be boring. I think you would get more people anxious to submit articles if they were shorter and less scholarly in nature. I also find the print small. More diversity is needed.

I would like to see more articles by "Islanders", in particular, with less emphasis upon political history and so-called "prominent" persons. I would enjoy more "community profiles" and

issues of local concern rather than major Island events. I was also quite concerned about the number of articles in particular issues which were submitted by the editor. Is it that there are not enough articles submitted by Island writers?

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## The editor duly takes note.

We need more articles on people and areas, such as in earlier issues. Make the Magazine more popular reading for the general public; there are not many historians on P.E.I.

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## And Commentary

My major interest has been genealogy and I miss not finding articles in this area.

It is a shame that you can't print as many articles in one issue as you used to be able to. I enjoyed the folklore section and the genealogy section you once featured and would like to see them return. Keep up the excellent work!

We plan to run articles on both subjects on a regular basis.

I'm a reader of your Magazine in Japan. I love L.M. Montgomery and her beautiful Island. I'm very interested in flowers of P.E.I., so I would like to know about gardening or popular flowers around 1900.

Perhaps a "Letters to the Editor" section?

