

Fashion in early 20th Century Prince Edward Island

***"It is ever so much easier to be good if your clothes are fashionable."* – Anne of Green Gables**

In the early 20th Century, the choice of fashions and clothing on Prince Edward Island was limited. Only the richest and most important

Islanders could afford shop-bought clothes. Those less wealthy made their own, even spinning and weaving their own wool. During this time, many people who had a sewing machine made a living by making clothes for others – Something as simple as a suit could cost two months' salary!

A popular trend that came from North America was 'upcycling', where flour and sugar bags were refashioned to create dresses, underwear and cloth. Flour companies knew people were recycling their bags and began creating pretty prints, which are now highly collectible!



ACTIVITY BOX - UPCYCLED TROUSER BAG



Don't throw away your old trousers, upcycle them to make a unique bag!

You will need:

- An old pair of trousers, such as jeans
- Fabric scissors
- Needle and thread
- Lace, buttons, ribbons, sequins for decorating

Method

1. Lay out your old pair of trousers.
2. With the help of an adult, cut off both legs so you have just the top part of your trousers left (but keep the legs for later!)
3. Turn the top part of the trousers inside out and stitch up the holes in the legs.
4. Take one leftover leg of your trousers and cut a long strip of fabric out. This will be used for the handle of your bag.
5. Stitch each end of the strip of fabric to each side of the waist band at the top of your bag to make the handle.
6. Turn your bag back the right way.
7. You can now choose to decorate your bag however you like. You could add lace, pockets, buttons, sequins, or anything you wish to make your upcycled bag unique!

