

For four days at the end of August, Canada captured the limelight at Expo '74, the world exhibition at Spokane, Washington in the United States. Comments such as "I'd no idea Canada had such talent" and "We are such close neighbours, yet I knew nothing about Canada before coming here" proved beyond doubt the success of the all-round effort of the Federal Government and the provincial governments of British Columbia and Alberta to acquaint citizens of the United States and other participating nations with Canada's outlook and culture.

Canadian activities included ceremonies at the International Amphitheatre, the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Canada Island, a spectacular all-Canadian show at the Spokane Coliseum, featuring the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride and the Feux Follets dancing troupe, the raising of a totem pole and the presentation of a collection of Canadian books to the Spokane Public Library. Of the Canada show, Expo '74 President King F. Cole stated that it was "just about the best performance of the whole fair".

The Federal Government and the Governments of Alberta and British Columbia combined to form the total Canadian participation at Expo '74, which opened in May and ends in November. The theme of the fair – protection of the environment – is depicted by Canada with a natural exhibit designed as an expression of friendship towards the U.S. and in particular to the citizens of Spokane. Canada's exhibit is an island, 40,000 feet square, which will remain as a permanent park after the fair closes.

Dedication ceremony

The island, formerly known as Cannon or Crystal Island, has been renamed Canada Island by the City of Spokane. Canada's Ambassador to the U.S., Marcel Cadieux, and Mayor David H. Rodgers of Spokane, cut the ribbon and unveiled a plaque commemorating the official change of name of the island. The inscription reads "Canada Island/Ile du Canada", followed by the date April 8, 1974, when the official renaming took place. After the reading of a proclamation of the City Council of Spokane ordering the flags of Canada and the U.S. to be flown "in per-

petuity" over Canada Island, the flags of the two nations were raised. "Canadians," said Mr. Rodgers, "have restored the island to a lovely 40-acre park and have given the city our own little bit of Canada."

Once the site of a laundry, the island has been transformed by Canada into a woodland area containing rock outcrops, falling water, trees, shrubs and flowers, where 45 species of evergreens, deciduous and perennial plants indigenous to Canada have been planted.

The island, situated on the Spokane River, has four main areas – a small amphitheatre (sponsored by the Government of Alberta), a lookout, from where one can take photographs, an indoor exhibit and information centre (in the British Columbia pavilion) and a children's playground containing specially designed "fantasy animals" created by Saskatchewan artist Russell Huristy. His "Super Prairie Crow", "Googlie Glow Worms" and Mountain Moose slide" are among the greatest attractions of Expo '74.

Canada Day opening ceremonies

Although "Canada days" at Expo began officially on August 28, festivities started the previous day, when the world-renowned Royal Canadian Mounted Police troop of the Musical Ride paraded through the main streets of downtown Spokane. They were accompanied by the City of Winnipeg Mased Pipes and Drums and the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Band. Thousands of spectators lined the streets for the noon-hour parade.

On August 28, Canada Day ceremonies began at 11 a.m. in the International Amphitheatre, when official representatives of each participating nation were guests of honour as Canadian and U.S. officials exchanged greetings of friendship and mutual respect. U.S. Commissioner General of Expo '74 Claude Bekins, extended "sincere friendship" to Ambassador Marcel Cadieux and the Canadians present. "Canadians," he said, "have shown an awareness of ecological problems that can be an example to a world only now awakening."

Mr. Cadieux stated that Expo '74 would be remembered as one of the important activities of the decade

"like the Stockholm Conference of the Environment in 1972, the Law of the Sea Conference in Caracas this year, the Oceanographic Exhibition in Okinawa in 1975 and the Vancouver Conference on Human Settlements in 1976 – in focusing the attention of mankind on the urgent need to balance our national technological progress with sensitivity for the preservation of our planet". He complimented the Mayor and citizens of Spokane and Expo '74 President King Cole for creating "such a practical tribute to the preservation of the environment".

With an honour guard of the RCMP onstage, the program opened with a performance by the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Band from Calgary, Alberta, followed by dances and songs by the Feux Follets, a company of 22 young performers from every region of Canada who skilfully blend the traditional and contemporary, the authentic and the theatrical in an image of Canadian youth, freshness, energy and vitality. Songs followed by Angèle Arsenault, a young singer of Acadian background, from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Her repertoire, including many of her own compositions, includes songs in English, French and in Indian languages.

Other dignitaries at the opening ceremonies included Expo '74 President King F. Cole, Patrick Reid, Canada's Commissioner General to Expo '74, and Mayor David H. Rodgers of Spokane.

Canada show "something to behold"

The day's activities ended with the first performance of "The Canada Show/Spectacle canadienne", produced by Jack McAndrew of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, in the Spokane Coliseum. The show, an unqualified success, was repeated to packed houses each evening until August 31. The players, in order of appearance were: The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Band, Angèle Arsenault, the City of Winnipeg Mased Pipes and Drums, the Royal Canadian Cadet Corps Guard and Band (over 300 young naval cadets) the Feux Follets and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride – a total of 601 performers.

The Spokesman-Review of August 29, described the show as follows:

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