



## Calgary whoops it up at Stampede

Each year in the second week of July the city of Calgary, Alberta, rolls back the rug, lets down its hair and kicks up its heels in the annual ten-day insanity called the Calgary Stampede.

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau officially opened this year's Stampede leading the largest parade in Stampede history through city streets astride a chestnut stallion resplendent with a silver-studded saddle valued at more than \$20,000. About 250,000 persons lined the route which wound for more than four kilometres through downtown Calgary. The parade included marching bands from Western Canada and the United States, floats, clowns, antique cars, political personalities, sports figures and the ever-popular representatives from Western Canada's native peoples dressed in full ceremonial garb.

Oil executives, banking personnel and office workers, usually a quiet group of people, don cowboy hats, boots, jeans, vests and string ties to whoop it up and holler in the streets. Business suits and dresses are taboo during the Stampede.

Each morning, many downtown streets are roped off for square dancing. Experienced dancers pull spectators from the crowd until an entire city block is jammed with dancers. Music is provided by a four-piece band as the "caller" chants out the "promenades" and "a la man lefts" while the hilarity and cheers from dancers bumping into each other ripple through the streets.

While one intersection is used for square dancing another features a marching band and yet another is occupied by Indians performing their traditional dances. Everywhere offices are closed as the whole city participates in the fun.

Stampede breakfasts of pancakes, eggs, bacon and sausages are served from sidewalk stands and various organizations sponsor "orange juice breakfasts" noted for their heavily spiked juice and entertainment. By noon each day the city is rolling!

### Rodeo time

While most people are eating beef, the real cowboys are wrestling, roping and riding the pre-dinner plate version for prize money in what is probably the world's largest and most famous rodeo.

The Stampede rodeo is considered to

be the jewel of the North American circuit. It attracts participants from across Canada and the United States, who compete for thousands of dollars in prize money in such events as bronc riding, steer wrestling, calf roping, chuck-wagon races and bull riding — daily chores for the cowboys of Western Canada's history. They pay an entry fee in each contest. Those entering more than one event hope to accumulate enough points to be named "all-round cowboy".

The Stampede Grounds, site of the rodeo, the midway and the grandstand show, are located within one mile of the city's core. The rodeo is held in front of the 17,000-seat grandstand during the afternoons, while evenings are reserved for the stage show and the Stampede's most popular event, the chuck-wagon races.

This year's rodeo demonstrated the danger involved in some events. As a winning chuck-wagon crossed the finish line during a qualifying heat, the driver was thrown from the wagon and lay unconscious on the track, forcing following wagons and riders to swerve to avoid hitting him. Later, after a bull threw his rider, the huge animal leapt a fence and

### Past parade marshalls

Parade marshalls of the Calgary Stampede for the past 12 years were:

1978 — Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau

1977 — Prince Charles

1976 — Steven Ford (son of U.S. President Ford)

1975 — Premier Peter Lougheed of Alberta

1974 — P.H. Dichens (First World War flying ace)

Douglas Bader (Second World War flying ace)

Eugene Cernan (*Apollo 17* Commander)

1973 — RCMP Commissioner W.L. Higgitt

1972 — Mickey Mouse

1971 — Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau

1970 — None recorded

1969 — Ron Northcott Curling Rink (world champions — four members)

1968 — Billy Henry, pioneer of the Canadian West, from High River, Alberta

1967 — Nancy Greene, skiing champion

1966 — Red Adair (international oil-well firefighter).