

Canada Weekly

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Canada salutes the United States as bicentennial year begins

Today, in a world of continued crisis, the United States and Canada have found a balanced calm – they share the responsibilities of being North Americans yet pursue separate destinies with the understanding that comes with years of friendly adjustments. Canadians rejoice in the two-hundredth birthday of the United

States, their closest neighbour, just as the people of the United States rejoiced in Canada's centennial nine years ago. Best wishes are extended for the next 200 years – and more. Whatever crises the years may bring, they will be resolved by persons of good will on both sides of the border. Familiarity breeds content.

As a major salute to the U.S. bicentennial celebrations, Canada took part in the 1976 Tournament of Roses Parade – the first official event in the bicentennial year – the East-West All-Star College Shrine Game half-time show, and gave a display at Disneyland early in January. At each event, the Canadians were easily identified with a specially-designed symbol combining an outline of a red maple leaf, and the figures "76" in red, white and blue stripes that are an integral part of the U.S. bicentennial logo.

Rose Parade

The Tournament of Roses Parade – watched by an estimated 1.5 million spectators along a 5.5-mile route in Pasadena, California, on January 1, was televised coast to coast in the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and in all the countries of Central America.

Leading the Canadian section of the Parade was a float from the city of Calgary, which won the Ambassador's Award, one of the 18 prizes given for various categories. The entry, "Let's Celebrate Friendship", was a ceremonial pipe of peace, decorated with feathers and beads and covered with masses of rust-coloured chrysanthemums. Real smoke puffed from the bowl of the pipe.

Next came the 36 horses and men of the Royal Canadian Police Musical Ride. The Mounties, in their scarlet tunics, dark-blue breeches with yellow stripes and famous broad-brimmed felt hats, astride their magnificent black horses, have become a familiar sight throughout Canada, the U.S., Britain,

Europe, Bermuda and Japan. Records indicate that the first musical ride was performed in 1876, three years after the inception of the Royal North-West Mounted Police force, as it was then known.

Canada's Ambassador to the U.S., Jack Hamilton Warren, took the salute as the troop passed the reviewing stand, followed by a 90-man combined regimental band called the Scarlet and Brass, comprising musicians of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry of Calgary, Alberta, and the Royal 22nd Regiment of Quebec City. It was the first time the two bands had played as one group.

Highland pipers – 150 of them – formed the All-Canada Pipe Band in



The City of Winnipeg Massed Pipes and Drums were part of the All-Canada Pipe Band marching in the Parade.

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