

# Canada Celebrates its 125th Birthday

1992 marks Canada's 125th anniversary as a nation, and across the country Canadians are celebrating the historic occasion.

Under the theme "The Future Begins With You," CANADA 125 Corporation, a non-profit organization headed by noted Canadians, is mobilizing grass-roots support for community-based activities that celebrate Canada's 125th birthday and is promoting a number of exciting nationwide projects.

CANADA 125 activities are designed to reflect five common Canadian values: the freedom and opportunity enjoyed by Canadian citizens; the desire to help one another; the wish to get to know one another better; Canadian achievements; and a common concern for the environment.

With assistance from 35 000 volunteer community advisers, CANADA 125 initiatives are being mounted from coast to coast. In an innovative school-based program called Discovery Box, launched in January, classrooms from different parts of the country are matched with each other. Participating classes fill their discovery boxes with special objects, personal memorabilia, and pictures and stories of their communities, and exchange them. As the young Canadians across Canada open the boxes from their matched classes, they are discovering their similarities and gaining a better understanding of their differences. The project is sponsored in part by the Canadian Bus Association and Greyhound Lines of Canada Ltd, a major bus company.

On a different track, CANADA 125 will also stage the Super Bike Rides series of 16 cycling events across Canada. Cycling is one of the largest



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and fastest growing sports in Canada, and it is estimated that the Super Bike Rides will draw 150 000 Canadian cyclists, many pedalling to raise funds for charity. Highlights will include the world's largest recreational bike ride, the Tour de l'île de Montréal, in which some 45 000 cyclists will travel 70 km through the winding streets of the city of Montreal, and the Canadian Tire National Cycling Series, an eight-event competitive cycling series staged at various locations across Canada. The Cycling Series serves as the basis for Canada's national ranking sys-

Every year, Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill in Ottawa culminate with a spectacular fireworks display.

tem and selection of the Canadian Olympic cycling team. The Super Bike Rides are sponsored in part by Canadian Tire, a national hardware chain; Manulife Financial, a major insurance firm; and Tour de l'île de Montréal Inc.

At a more leisurely pace, Canadians across the country

will join together to toast their neighbours at 2:00 p.m. on June 14 as part of the one-day nationwide National Neighbourhood Party. Headed by well known Canadian actor John Candy, and sponsored by the soft drink company Canada Dry, the neighbourhood parties are designed to foster understanding and goodwill.

The Proud to be Canadian Tour is another highlight of Canada's 125th anniversary celebrations. Commencing simultaneously at the town of Carbonear in Canada's eastern island province of Newfoundland and at Victoria, British Columbia, on Canada's west coast, the cross-Canada tour will include a procession of Canadian flags that have flown atop the Canadian Parliament Buildings. During the tour, the flags will be flown in more than 600 communities, and children will be encouraged to sign specially designed accompanying flags. The tour will end in the capital city, Ottawa, where the flags will be presented at a special Parliament Hill ceremony on Canada's 125th birthday, July 1, 1992.

The ever-growing list of projects being organized for Canada 125 is as exciting and diverse as the people of Canada. Claude Dupras, co-chair of CANADA 125 Corporation, notes that "Canadians in all provinces and territories are prepared to contribute to their communities in significant ways. Canada's 125th anniversary gives us the opportunity to contribute and to celebrate our people, our land and our future." 🍁