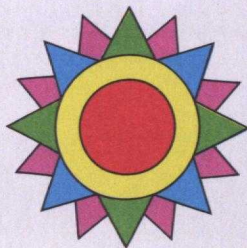


RECREATION



Variety is the source of Canada's popularity with vacationers—variety of climate, of scenery, of people. The Canadian seasons come in different guises to different parts of the country, and arrive at different intervals.

To the greater part of Canada winter brings cold-weather sports and pastimes of all kinds—skiing, skating, curling and ice-hockey, among others. Winter carnivals are popular, the biggest and best-known being that held each year in Quebec City. Sport fans who prefer the spectator's role are entertained by the finest professional hockey teams in the world.

In the late spring and summer, thousands of people move to cottages by lakes and streams, while other thousands swim, fish, sail, motor and golf. Later in the summer, Canada's second main spectator sport, gridiron football, opens its training season, for the next four months or so exerting a hypnotic spell over a large section of the population. Spring and summer are the seasons for open-air festivals and shows. Tourists in Montreal stroll through the Botanical Gardens; visitors to Nova Scotia attend the Annapolis Apple Blossom Festival; thousands of people from the United States and other countries flock to the Calgary Stampede, the greatest Wild West show on earth.

Autumn in Eastern Canada is a blazing tapestry of coloured leaves. From east to west, it is the season for hiking and colour photography, football and baseball, and fall fairs everywhere throughout the countryside.

Canada is a land bountifully endowed with natural playgrounds. The Federal Government maintains 19 national parks, with camp-sites and other basic camping facilities, and each province maintains a number of similar parks.

