



### SOUTHERN EUROPEANS

John Cabot, who sailed for England, was an Italian; Portuguese explorers and fishermen were among the discoverers of Newfoundland; and a man called Juan de Fuca, who gave his name to the Strait that separates Vancouver Island from the mainland, was a Greek, born on the Island of Cephalonia in the Ionian Sea, whose real name was either Yannis Phokas or Apostolos Valerianos.

Still, most of Canada's early arrivals were from northern Europe and the United States, and the first real immigrants from the south came around 1880, when a good many Italians came to work on the construction of the Canadian Pacific. They were followed by the Greeks. Most of the new immigrants were men who intended to save their wages and return home.

Many stayed in place, however, and opened fruit stores, restaurants, barber shops, shoe-repair shops and other small businesses.

Women began arriving in significant numbers after 1905, and there soon were marriages and families.

The great influx of Italians, Greeks and Portuguese came after World War II. Some 375,000 Italians arrived between January 1946 and December 1965, and 107,780 Greeks between 1945 and 1971. Almost all settled in Canada's three biggest cities, Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

Portuguese explorers and fishermen were among the first Europeans to touch Canada's shores—but almost all Portuguese immigrants have arrived since 1945.

The greatest impact of the southern Europeans was on Toronto, where they opened many restaurants and groceries, giving the staid old Anglo-Celtic city a Mediterranean dimension. There are now about 800,000 people of southern European origin living in Canada, more than half in the major cities.

Photo: NFB Photothèque.

# November/Novembre 1983

**CANADA**  
TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI

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	6		7		8		9		10		11		12
											Veterans Day Remembrance Day Jour du souvenir		
	13		14		15		16		17		18		19
	20		21		22		23		24		25		26
									Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)				
	27		28		29		30						

Photo: Courtesy Department of the Secretary of State.