

## National anthem highlights Canada's birthday celebrations

The proclamation of *O Canada* as the official national anthem was the highlight of Canada's one-hundred-and-thirteenth birthday festivities July 1, which included country-wide flag-raising ceremonies, picnics, parades, barbecues, street dances, concerts, sporting events, cultural displays and fireworks.

An estimated 70,000 gathered on Parliament Hill in Ottawa for the ceremonies of the changing of the guard, a 21-gun salute, military fanfare, speeches and the official signing of the proclamation by Governor-General Edward Schreyer. Taking the cue from Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau to "sing together this anthem to the country we truly love", the crowd sang the new anthem.

Canadians across the country had been invited to sing at noon local times *O Canada* as it became the official national anthem. *O Canada* with original French lyrics by Sir Adolphe Basile Routhier and music composed by Calixa Lavallée made its *début* in Quebec City on the feast of St. Jean Baptiste, June 24, 1880. In 1908, Robert Stanley Weir's English version began to enjoy wide acceptance across Canada.

The staff of the Canadian High Commission in Wellington, New Zealand claimed the distinction of being the first official Canadians anywhere on the globe to sing the revised version of the national anthem. The rendition was given at noon July 1 in the chancery by Canada-based and local staff.

This year's musical variety show on Parliament Hill was scaled down from those of previous years and was not televised in its entirety. Some celebrants, however, spent 14 hours on Parliament Hill selecting prime spots three hours before noon festivities and staying until the final explosion of fireworks capped the evening variety show.

### Canada Week activities

The week of June 25 to July 1 was officially designated by Governor-General Schreyer as Canada Week with the theme of "Canada, It's You and Me". Three thousand events were planned during the week to celebrate 113 years of Canadian Confederation.

The spotlight was on activities in Alberta and Saskatchewan, where visitors were welcomed to special "homecoming"

events as part of the provinces' seventy-fifth birthday celebrations, and on Port Royal, Nova Scotia, where Acadians are preparing for the three-hundred-and-seventy-fifth anniversary of settlement in that province.

Some of the events that took place across Canada during Canada Week were: — special citizenship courts throughout the country;

— a sardine-packing championship in St. Andrews, New Brunswick involving the rapid packing of the tiny herring into its usual environment — the can;

— a ten-kilometre marathon and a 30-kilometre race in Nanisivik, Baffin Island; — the official opening in Chilliwack, British Columbia of the Minter Gardens, considered by some to be Canada's most beautiful;

— provincial arm-wrestling championships in Cardigan, and national junior boxing championships in O'Leary, Prince Edward Island;

— a tattoo in Halifax and a Canada Fun Run in which the city challenged Calgary as part of the week's twinning program;

— the world championship bed race in Flin Flon, and a Folklorama in The Pas Manitoba, in which 18 ethnic groups participated;

— a gold panning contest in Dawson City, Yukon;

— the Canadian Canoe Festival in Ottawa, which emphasized the role of the voyagers in Canada's past;

— a province-wide art and literary contest in Quebec Schools with the theme "Canada, It's You and Me". Prizes were awarded, the first four consisting of a trip to Regina, Saskatchewan, which was chosen as Quebec's twin province for this year's birthday festivities; and

— three prisons, the Saskatchewan Penitentiary, Millhaven in Kingston, Ontario and Archambault in Montreal competed against each other simultaneously in a variety of sporting events. Trophies were supplied by the Council for Canadian Unity.

### The Governor General's message

The Governor General issued the following message for Canada's birthday:

"Our country is celebrating today 113 years of existence and I am happy to be able to say "Happy Birthday Canada!"

"At the same time as we are celebrating Canada's birthday we should send special



Governor-General Schreyer (right) signs the royal proclamation as Prime Minister Trudeau (far left) watches on.

greetings to our fellow-Canadians of Saskatchewan and Alberta who are this year celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of their provinces' entry into Canadian Confederation. Incredible as it may seem, this year marks the three-hundred-and-seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Port Royal in 1605 by Champlain and De Monts and we salute our Acadian friends and send them warm wishes for the future.

"We have been through a trying period. Just as the members of a family close ranks around one their own facing a grave difficulty, Canadians from coast to coast drew closer to their compatriots in Quebec. Now that the immediate danger seems to have lessened, we should not want to return to a state of indifference and apathy. The road ahead is long and requiring patience — a country cannot be redirected overnight — but it would be unfortunate if, having arrived at the crossroads, we should each take a different pathway and return to our separate concerns without a thought to the concerns of others. It is now, while the anxiety, the goodwill and the intellectual analysis generated by the uncertainty have not yet been dissipated by local or regional self-interest, that we must try to achieve a solution that will be fair and equitable to all.

"A seventeenth century philosopher once wrote: "We all have enough strength to bear the ills of others." These some-