

Research Council in the 1960s. In 1971, he was awarded the Nobel prize for his work in spectroscopy--the study of molecular structure and behaviour as well as the study of inter-stellar space and the atmosphere of planets.

German-Canadian contributions to the cultural life of Canada vary from the serious to the light-hearted. The light-hearted side of German culture is celebrated in Oktoberfests attended not only by German Canadians but by Canadians of varying ethnic backgrounds. Not surprisingly, the largest Oktoberfest occurs in the Kitchener-Waterloo area of Ontario, where there is the largest concentration of German Canadians; but smaller festivals are held across the country.

As well, the Canadian tradition of decorating an evergreen tree with lights at Christmas originated in Germany in the 16th century and was introduced into Canada by the Baroness von Riedesel in 1776.

In music, Canadians of German background -- such as Herman Geiger-Torel, general director of the Canadian Opera Company, and Jean Lallemand, founder of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra -- have contributed much to the presentation of classical music in Canada. German choirs and song festivals have also remained popular after a history of more than a century and a half in Canada. Elmer Iseler, born in Kitchener, is the present conductor of the Mendelssohn Choir, originally founded in 1894 by Dr. Vogt.

The best-known of the German-Canadian painters is Cornelius Krieghoff (1815-1872). Another notable early German landscape and portrait painter was William von Mall-Berczy, who is also known as a co-founder of the city of Toronto and builder of Upper Canada's first bona fide north-south road, Yonge Street.

Most Canadian writers with German origins write in one of the two official languages rather than German. Henry Kreisel, a Vienna native, and Rudy Wiebe, a Mennonite from Edmonton and winner of the Governor General's award, are two fiction writers who have earned critical acclaim. As well, Frederick Philip Grove, who wrote about prairie life in the early part of this century, is recognized as one of Canada's foremost realist writers.

In the political realm, German Canadians have played influential roles. Three Fathers of Confederation, Sir Charles Tupper, William Henry Steeves and Charles Fisher, were of German descent. Many more Canadians of German descent have participated in public life. Among them were William Aberhart, the Premier of Alberta (1935 to 1943) who introduced the theories of social credit to Canada; and John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister from 1957 to 1962.