

# Canada Weekly

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The Canadian team strides into the Olympic Stadium, led by flag bearer

Abby Hoffman of Toronto, during the opening ceremonies on July 17.

## All champions as Montreal Olympics open

Thousands of words have been written about the problems besetting the Montreal Olympics and whether or not the opening would take place on time. The world had read of mishaps, doubts that facilities would be ready, strikes, spiralling inflationary costs, fear of terrorism and, finally, the threat of the Games being cancelled over the "Taiwan issue".

In the new stadium awaiting the opening on July 17, the feeling was still one of uncertainty and the excitement that should have been present was somehow lacking.

The bright, yellow and blue seats seemed to fill up slowly – almost reluctantly. The minutes ticked by until 3 p.m. and, although the World Youth Orchestra played their music perfectly and the 70,000-odd spectators greeted dignitaries warmly – the Queen, members of the royal family, the Governor General, the Prime Minister, to name a few – the haunting scepticism still prevailed. It persisted up to one point – the entry of the athletes – and everything else was forgotten. Suddenly, the whole stadium was

electrified. Suddenly, nothing else mattered. The doubts, the uncertainties, the agonizing had vanished.

There they were – contingent after contingent of magnificent athletes from most countries of the world, marching proudly behind their flag bearers, in beautifully-coloured uniforms that transformed the whole setting into a vast rainbow. These young hopefuls who had trained for years, were witnessing their dreams come true. And it showed – in their faces, in their hand-waving, in their bearing and in their stride as they circled the track to the accompaniment of the inspiring *Symphonic Suite* by Victor Vogel from the works of André Mathieu.

### Traditional order

Greece, by tradition, entered first. That was where it had all begun. Then the other nations followed in alphabetical order, with Canada, the host country, last. When the nearly 500-strong Canadian delegation swung in, dressed in the red and white of the flag, they received a cheer that rocked

### Stop press

Nancy Garapick, 14-year-old swimmer from Halifax, Nova Scotia, won Canada's third Olympic bronze medal, July 22, in the 100-metre back stroke event behind Ulrike Richter and Birgit Trieber, both of East Germany. Wendy Cook-Hogg and Cheryl Gibson of Vancouver, were fourth and sixth. (See also P. 6)