

# Canada Day: July 1, 1986 Has A Transportation



July 1 is "Canada Day". It is a day when Canadians commemorate the historic occasion, in 1867, when the four founding provinces, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, joined together to form the confederation that brought Canada into existence.

This year Canada is host to the world at Expo '86 in Vancouver, British Columbia. There will be a special focus in Canada Day celebrations on transportation and communications — the theme of Expo '86. It is an appropriate theme for Canadians to herald. The development of a modern, extensive transportation network and technological advances in the field of communications have played a decisive role in Canada's growth to nationhood.

The growth and development of Canada across the northern half of the North American continent was a remarkable feat. This is especially true considering the very size of the country (land area of 9,221,062 square kilometres or 3,560,252 square miles) and its relatively small and dispersed population (approx. 25 million).

To unite a sparse population, scattered from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, Canada's founders decided to construct a transcontinental railway, to open the vast Western territories and link eastern and central Canada to the Pacific port of Vancouver.

Many ridiculed the idea, believing a railway could never be cut through the forbidding terrain of northern Ontario or across the even more imposing obstacles of the Rocky Mountains. Fifteen years later, in 1885, the critics were silenced when the last spike of the Canadian

Pacific Railway (C.P.R.) was driven, completing a monument blasted out of rock by dynamite through the toil of thousands of new Canadians.

More than one hundred years later, the dream of a unified country reaching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific and from the U.S. border to the North Pole has been fully realized. From the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway to the establishment of today's network of highways, waterways, railroads and air routes, Canadian developments in the field of transportation have played a

major role in uniting the country. At Expo '86, Canadians along with visitors from many countries will have the opportunity to view exhibits and displays which celebrate the technological achievements of our modern world in the field of transportation.

Canada has shared in many of these transportation achievements. Many visitors coming to Expo '86 will reach the exposition site by travelling on Vancouver's new light-rail transit system — "Skytrain". This completely automatic, driver-less transit system features the advanced technology of linear-induction motors.

In the field of aviation, Canadians have developed expertise in the production of short takeoff and landing aircraft to meet the growing demands of commuter airlines, while the company, Canadair, has achieved excellence and world recognition for its "Challenger" business jet.

For a country with the second largest land mass in the world, communications are as important as transportation.

From telephone switching systems to radio and television broadcasting and from micro-wave towers to communications satellites, Canada has become a world leader in communications technology.

Through advanced computer and radio communications technologies, Canadians have developed cellular mobile radiotelephone. Offering convenient, private and high quality mobile telephone service, the new system avoids the crowded radio spectrum of urban areas by using small,



*Canada Day brings out the Maple Leaf flag.*