

# All who want a new holiday smile

There was a wise man who once suggested, while sloshing wetly through a puddle of slush, that Canada could use a new national holiday, a day to brighten the grey and gloom of February, to provide a break in the long distance from New-Year's to Easter. Canadian winters are to be enjoyed, perhaps, but also to be endured.

Now up on Parliament Hill they're debating about a February holiday. A parliamentary house committee has suggested that the third Monday in February be called Heritage Day and many parliamentarians seem in favour.

While the honourable members discuss this motion we wondered what local residents think of the idea. So we took a Times poll and asked a few people whether they agree we should have a February holiday, what they would call it and when we should celebrate it.

Here are some answers but if you have your own opinion, please let us know. We'll forward all suggestions to the holiday committee in Parliament. Write to February Holiday, c/o the Mississauga Times, 2300 South Sheridan Way, Mississauga.

MARTIN DOBKIN



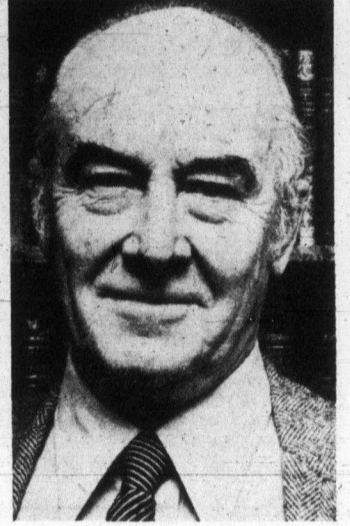
Mayor of Mississauga  
"I think we should have a holiday on the third Monday in February and call it Winter Day. Canada is one of the few countries with a true winter and we could celebrate the season with an emphasis on winter sports and winter carnival activities. A lot of places already have their own winter carnivals and this would be like a national winter carnival with every community having their own Winter Day project."

MARJORIE HOMER-DIXON



Canadian Olympic Paddler  
"I think a winter holiday is a great idea. If Dominion Day hasn't been officially changed to Canada Day why not call this holiday Canada Day and celebrate it around Feb. 20."

J. TUZO WILSON



Principal, Erindale College  
"I think it's much better to have more holidays in the summer when the weather is nicer but if we are to have a holiday in February let's celebrate Groundhog Day and hope he doesn't see his shadow."

EILEEN SONIN



Radio and Television Performer, Author, Expert on Ghosts  
"Let's have a holiday the last Monday in February and call it Hope Day, with hope for the new year and looking forward to the spring."

LOU PARSONS



Peel Region Chairman  
"Yes, let's have a national holiday in February and call it Flag Proclamation Day and celebrate it Feb. 21 or whenever the Canadian flag was officially proclaimed."

GRAHAM LEGGAT



General Manager, O'Keefe Sports Foundation  
"Let's have a holiday and call it Lester Pearson day, after the late prime minister, because he was really pro-Canadian. It would be a holiday everybody could enjoy because everybody enjoyed Lester Pearson and it would also be a tribute to a great Canadian statesman. I think we should celebrate from Feb. 2 to Feb. 28 (Feb. 29 on leap years) because I'm all for holidays."

DOUGLAS BURROWS



Peel Regional Police Chief  
"I'm opposed to any further school-breaks what with the one there is now coming so close to Easter but I think it would be nice for everybody to have some kind of holiday around the middle of February. It could be called International Day, a day to bring together all the different people in this country."

DON BLENKARN



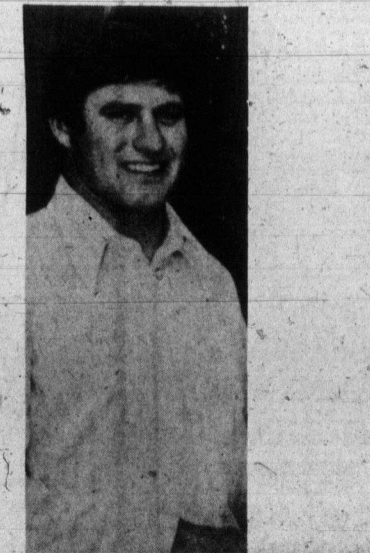
Mississauga MP  
"I think we need a break in the middle of winter, a long weekend would help us get through all the bad weather. A parliamentary house committee is suggesting that we call the third Monday in February Heritage Day and I totally support the idea. That's probably as good a suggestion for a holiday as any I've heard."

KAREN KAIN



Ballerina, National Ballet of Canada  
"I don't really like holidays. Dancers have to keep practising and taking lessons whether it is a holiday or not. I wonder if we really need another holiday. Maybe they are fun but do we really need one?"

BILL SYMONS



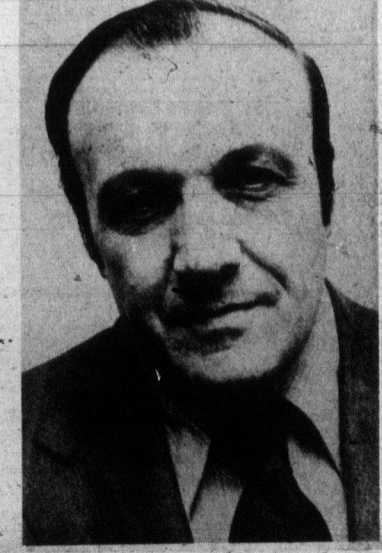
Argonaut Running Back  
"We could have a holiday and call it Unification Day, the one day when all different ethnic and religious groups would merge into one nation. We should celebrate it Feb. 13. That way just in case the merging doesn't work, everybody will stay at home anyway and it won't matter so much."

MARY HELEN SPENCE



Ward 2 Councillor  
"We should have a holiday and call it Walter Mitty Day, a free day to do all the things you've always wanted to do and to be the person you've always wanted to be. When should we celebrate it? Why on Feb. 30, of course."

JOSEPH HUGEL



Superintendent of Schools, Dufferin-Peel County Separate School Board  
"Dominion Day has little significance for most children because it takes place after schools close and we can't incorporate the holiday into the school program. Why can't we celebrate Dominion Day in February to make it more meaningful and find some other holiday to celebrate in July?"