



### Canadians celebrate coming of spring

Canadians salute the arrival of spring with festivals celebrating the reawakening of nature and a resurgence of its vitality.

Four of the most popular are the Blossom Festival at Niagara Falls, Ontario (May 7-18); the Ottawa Spring Festival (May 16-24); the Guelph, Ontario, Spring Festival (April 23-May 9); and the Creston Blossom Festival in British Columbia (May 21-24).

### Niagara Falls

The Niagara Blossom Festival takes place in the fruit-belt of southern Ontario. Surrounded by orchards in bloom, it features a parade, folk dancing, sports competitions, handicraft exhibitions and sailing. Multicultural dancing and singing groups will, this year, present an opening show on May 7 entitled "Ethnic Heritage". During the parade held the next day, Miss Niagara Hospitality, Miss Canada, Miss U.S.A. and Miss Universe will salute the crowd from a special float. Parliamentarians, mayors of neighbouring communities and other eminent citizens will be on hand.

### Ottawa

Ottawa's Festival of Spring (formerly the Canadian Tulip Festival) dates from September 1946, when Queen Juliana of the Netherlands sent a gift of 20,000 tulip bulbs to Canada as a token of the gratitude of the Dutch people for the role played by Canadian troops in the liberation of Holland dur-

ing the Second World War. The following year, another gift of tulips came, and year after year they have continued to arrive — until today over two million tulips of Dutch origin emblazon the Ottawa spring.

Queen Juliana, who had spent the war years in Canada during the occupation of her country, also arranged for a personal annual presentation of bulbs to celebrate the birth there in 1943 of her daughter Princess Margriet.

This year, as always, the tulips will be the main attraction at the Festival of Spring. More than 150,000 occupy a single bed at Dow's Lake at the southern end of the city. They also bedeck Parliament Hill, miles of scenic driveways, city cycle-paths, the Rideau Canal, parks and squares and major public buildings.

Festival events include a procession of decorated boats on the Rideau Canal, a bathtub race on Dow's Lake, a giant craft-market and beer-garden in Major's Hill Park, and fireworks displays.

### Guelph

The Guelph Spring Festival is chiefly a musical event. This year its organ-

izers are concentrating on Canadian artistic talent, supported by a few outstanding international contributions. The Canadian talent will be represented by the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Cantata Singers of Ottawa and the Canadian Mime Theatre from Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

For children, there will be Magic Tom and, for the swing and jazz set, Moe Koffman and his quintet. The Orford String Quartet will appear both in concert and in a special ensemble.

The attractions from outside Canada will include the Italian string orchestra I Musici di Roma, the Polish composer and conductor Krzysztof Penderecki and the Greek pianist Gina Bachauer.

### Creston

The Creston Blossom Festival, like the one at Niagara Falls, features orchards in full bloom. The town's population doubles each year as visitors join the residents of this community in southeastern British Columbia for a round of festivities that includes a parade, a beauty queen contest, folk dancing, a Bavarian beer-garden and a midway with rides and sideshows.



*Every year, millions of tulips herald the coming of spring in the capital. They are seen in profusion on Parliament Hill (top left), along Dows Lake (above), on scenic driveways and on*

*paths and parks all over the city. The tulips originated from a gift of bulbs from Queen Juliana of the Netherlands after the Second World War. She spent the war years in Ottawa,*