

## Canada's birthday party an invitation to the homesick

"If you're a Canadian abroad who is feeling a bit homesick, take heart, Canada's birthday is coming," says Mark Van Dusen of Festival Canada. He describes, in the following article, some of the many activities expected to take place across the country during the last week of June, leading up to the July 1 party.

Canada's Birthday/*Les Fêtes du Canada*, the national celebration of Canada's one-hundred and twelfth anniversary, provides all Canadians with an occasion to don a party hat and rattle a noisemaker for their country.

"There are hundreds of Canadians the world over who can feel closer to home, wherever they may be, by celebrating Canada's birthday," Muriel Sherrin, English program director for the celebration, said.

"If you can't be at home, bring home to you through Canada's birthday."

From June 25 — July 1, millions of Canadians across the country will be participating in hundreds of birthday events to the theme "Canada, it's you and me, *Le Canada, c'est toi et moi.*"

"The spirit of the theme, of Canadians seeking each other out, getting to know each other better, knows no bounds. It bridges oceans and continents in linking all Canadians," Mrs. Sherrin said.

"We at home extend an invitation to our countrymen everywhere to rejoice with us in this spirit."

Michel Sénécal, French program director for Canada's birthday, echoed her sentiments.

"Whether you're stationed at an embassy in Europe or at a trade commission in Asia; whether you're a CUSO volunteer in South America or a missionary in Africa; whether you're a foreign student, touring artist or travelling industrialist; Canada's birthday needs your involvement to show that pride in being Canadian isn't limited by any longitude or latitude," he said.

### National events

Concerts, carnivals, clambakes, fairs, festivals, flag-raising, plays, pageants, presentations, races, rallies and rodeos are among the hundreds of birthday events planned at home. Many events will be staged simultaneously between far-flung communities as part of a national pro-



Richter, NCC

*Last year's birthday party on the Hill.*

gram of twinned provinces and territories. In all, events will be held in 1,500 areas from coast to coast.

In Quebec, apart from a multitude of Main Street events, major attractions are being planned for Old Montreal Harbour; hundreds of boy scouts will gather on the Plains of Abraham in a huge jamboree; and opening ceremonies at the World Canoe-Kayak Championships in Jonquière will be dedicated to Canada's birthday.

At the Great Canadian Salmon Taste in Newfoundland, blindfolded celebrities will test their taste buds between both Atlantic and Pacific samples of that finny delicacy.

Northern Alberta communities will revel in the traditional food, song and dance of the Québécois at a Franco-Canadian festival.

Moose Jaw residents will begin celebrating one week ahead of the rest of the country with funding for events coming from the sale of square centimetres of land at \$2 a piece.

An audience of 50,000 is expected to sing along with performers during a two-hour "Canada Sings" show at Empire Stadium in Vancouver.

Thirty runners will puff out their birthday greeting in a 989-kilometre relay lasting four days from Sarnia, Ontario to Trois-Rivières, Quebec.

### Capital area fun

The national capital region will reverberate during the July 1 weekend to a huge Ottawa-Hull parade, a heritage ball, a park playday for thousands of children,

pinics, competitions and street dances. The Parliament Hill show, featuring Canadian entertainers and giant fireworks display will climax the celebrations.

The Council for Canadian Unity, the Canadian Folk Arts Council and tens of thousands of volunteers are organizing the birthday events nationally with funding, promotion and co-ordination provided by Festival Canada, a directorate of the Department of the Secretary of State. Festival Canada also produces the show on Parliament Hill.

Mrs. Sherrin said Canadians abroad could celebrate in much the same way as Canadians at home.

"Fly the flag, have a party, send a card to friends at home, seek out other Canadians and toast your country. Once the spirit grabs you, there's no end to what you can do," she said.

"If you're homesick, what better way to alleviate the blues?"

She urged Canadians abroad to inform Festival Canada of any planned birthday events as soon as possible "so that we can tell the rest of the country that you are alive and well and thinking of us".

"We at home will be thinking of you and wishing you were here."

## Aid agreement with Kenya

Canada and Kenya signed an \$82.75-million aid agreement on May 9, one of the largest Canadian aid projects in Africa, to carry out development of Kenya's electrical transmission system.

The development program, financed through the Canadian International Development Agency, will be phased in over the next five to seven years, and will involve \$72-million worth of loans with no interest, and \$10.75 million in grants.

The loans will finance the costs of consultancy and engineering services, material and equipment for high voltage transmission lines and sub-stations to aid the industrialization in western Kenya and the coastal region.

The grants will be for the extension of rural electrification in the east African country.

Kenyan Vice President and Finance Minister Mwai Kibaki thanked the Canadian Government for the "generous" terms in the loan agreement, stating that the project would be a cornerstone of Kenya's current five-year development program.