

bursting into bloom. For spring and the similar, moderate weather of autumn, mid-September to mid-November, a light coat is essential. Summer is hot in most areas and lightweight clothing, preferably wash-and-wear or easy maintenance, is recommended, as well as a raincoat. A cardigan sweater is useful for cooler summer evenings.

As you may find yourself carrying your suitcases from time to time, travel lightly. One bag is best, two should be a maximum.

## **Other seasonal considerations**

Different seasons and regions of Canada also mean a variety of cultural and sporting activities. The regular season for theatre, ballet, opera and symphony concerts is usually late September to May, although the National Arts Centre in Ottawa presents a festival of opera in July to celebrate Canada's national day. The summer is time for open air concerts, theatre productions such as the Stratford Shakespearean and Shaw Festivals in Ontario, and the fall is time for agricultural fairs. Summertime too is the season for national parks across Canada to open to visitors wishing to take a swim, or camp out. Banff National Park in Alberta, however, is open all year for summer and winter sports. Primary and secondary schools are usually closed during the summer; universities are often open but functioning with very reduced staff and services. Traditionally, Canadians vacation in summer, although many now prefer mid-winter holidays.