

# In this issue

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*Opposite*  
Vancouver and Expo 86  
from a height of 4 000 feet

*Front cover*  
The east gate to Expo 86

## Editorial

When Expo 86 opens in Vancouver in May next year, it will mark the end of several years of planning and the beginning of a 5½-month-long Canadian celebration.

Inevitably, comparisons will be made with Expo 67 in Montreal, which was an unprecedented national and international success. Now Expo 86 seems set to carve out for itself a unique place in the history of world fairs. Already, it has taken on the dimensions of a major international event — one that people will remember for many years to come.

More than 40 nations from every continent have so far signified their participation. Britain was the first country to accept the invitation while China and the USSR will be seen together for the first time at a major exposition.

In this issue of *Canada Today*, we look at the way Expo 86 is taking shape on its two sites in Vancouver, and we give a preview of just a few of the things that visitors will be able to see and do there.

Typical of the quality of the events being planned is the World Festival for the performing arts. It is one of the largest events of its kind ever held, and will bring together such acclaimed companies as the Kirov Ballet from Leningrad (making its first appearance in North America for more than two decades), the Royal Ballet from London, the Philadelphia Orchestra, Montreal's Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and the Vancouver Opera Association.

Other events that are scheduled range from an international air show and vintage car rally to a tall ship race and dare devil display by a motorcycle thrill

team. They, too, are backed by the same kind of ambitious planning that has gone into the World Festival.

Of particular interest to anyone contemplating a visit to Expo 86 is the range of travel packages that have been designed specifically for people who want to combine a trip to Vancouver with a trip to other parts of Canada.

In this issue, we describe a selection of the packages that will allow visitors to see Canada by road, rail, air, ship or self-drive motor home. All the tours we mention either begin or end in Vancouver during the months that Expo 86 will be open, and they take in some of the most spectacular scenery that Canada has to offer as well as the excitement of its modern cities and towns.

Also in this issue, we echo the twin themes of Expo 86 — transportation and communications. As might be expected in a large country with a small population, they are of special interest to Canada; and as a result, Canada has gained worldwide expertise in both.

In our review, we concentrate on two areas where that expertise is particularly well established — rapid transit and cellular radio.



Canadian High Commissioner