

# Canada Weekly

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## Christmas unfolds gently through Canada's time zones

The easternmost shores of Newfoundland are first to feel the touch of Christmas Day in Canada. Five more hours will elapse before the day reaches the Yukon. On its joyous passage across this vast land, Christmas has seven beginnings and as many ends, as it moves from one time zone to the next.

Christmas was celebrated for the first time on Canadian soil in 1535, in the palisaded forts which Jacques Cartier and his men had built at the mouth of the St. Charles River (they called it Ste. Croix), and on the French ships frozen fast in the St. Lawrence. This was not a joyful day for the hardy men from Normandy, huddled in their cold block-houses ashore or beneath the deck in the equally icy ships. Twenty-five of them died before spring released the ships from the ice and they could return to France. Yet, it is recorded that they celebrated Christmas devotedly and bravely.

Newfoundland, first settled by "winter crews" of arrogant Devon captains was Britain's first American colony. Here began England's Commonwealth, and here in its own time zone, the youngest pro-

vince of Canada enjoys a half hour of Christmas Day — first of all Canada to herald this blessed time. In the outports, there is rich tradition. The English custom of "mummers" — acting out short pantomimes and serenading villagers — still adds colour to the season. While children sleep in British Columbia, Newfoundland's children creep down the stairs to laden trees. Christmas reaches out to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, the Gaspé coast and eastern Quebec and flows over the cradle of Canada, stirring half forgotten memories and preserving many traditions in a land of many people of different origins.

Christmas pushes on. Its second hour in Canada encompasses Prince Edward Island, where Canada was born. In the kitchens of lobster fishermen, the day is welcomed in a quiet spirit of thankfulness and joy.

### First service

It was in Nova Scotia that the first Christmas service was held in Government House, Halifax in 1749. Although

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Season's Greetings

Meilleurs Voeux

Kitche Mōkashān

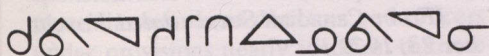


*We wish you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year  
Nous vous souhaitons un Joyeux Noël  
et une Bonne et Heureuse Année*

*Ed Schreyer*

*Liz Schreyer*

JASON, KARMELO, LISA  
TOBAN



Dec 19/26/79