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Early Canadian Christmas memories include ice hockey

December 25 means more than Christmas day to many Canadians. It is the date when the first game of ice hockey was played anywhere in the world. On Christmas day, 1855, members of the Royal Canadian Rifles, stationed at Fort Henry in Kingston, Ontario, put on ice skates and played a game of hockey on the ice that had formed on the waters of Kingston harbour.

The game they played, of course, was a version of field hockey, and the sticks they used were field hockey sticks; instead of a puck they used a lacrosse ball. But it was from this game that ice hockey evolved to become Canada's national game, in much the same way as cricket belongs to England and baseball is so distinctively American.

Before ice hockey could become more than the English game of field hockey played somewhat clumsily on ice, a new kind of skate had to be devised. The skates worn in those days were long with curved points, ideal for gliding along an ice-covered Netherlands canal or a frozen river in England. They were not built for the quick turns and rapid manoeuvering required in a fast game played on a comparatively small rink. This sort of skate, with short tough blades, was finally produced in 1864 by John Forbes, a hardware merchant in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Forbes set up the Starr Manufacturing Company in Dartmouth to manufacture the skates, and within a few years the game the world knows as Canadian ice hockey started to emerge. In 1875, the students of McGill University in Montreal laid down a set of rules, and organized team games started to take place.

In 1885, cadets of the Royal Military College in Kingston challenged Queen's College, also of Kingston, to a game on the ice where the first ice hockey was played 30 years previously. This game is re-enacted annually in Kingston, but it is now played in an arena and not on the harbour ice.

By 1893 the Governor General, Lord Stanley, awarded a cup for which teams



External Affairs

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The tradition of setting up a Christmas tree began in Halifax, Nova Scotia 130 years ago.

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across Canada could compete. The Stanley Cup is awarded annually to the champions of the National Hockey League.

Celebration in Edmonton in 1847

The early Canadian artist, Paul Kane, spent the years from 1846 to 1848 travelling through the Canadian prairies, sketching the country and its people. He also kept a journal and this was part of his description of the Christmas dinner at the Hudson's Bay company post at Edmonton, Alberta in 1847:

"No table cloth shed its snowy whiteness over the board; no silver candlesticks or gaudy china interfered with the simple magnificence. The bright tin plates and dishes reflected jolly faces, and burnished gold can give no truer zest to a feast.

"At the head, before Mr. Harriett, the factor, was a large dish of boiled buffalo hump. At the foot smoked a boiled buffalo calf, a very small one torn from its mother's belly long before it had attained its full growth. This, boiled whole, is one of the most esteemed dishes amongst the epicures of the prairies.

"My pleasing duty was to help serve a dish of mouffle, or dried moose lip. The gentleman on my left distributed the white fish which had been delicately browned in buffalo marrow. The priest served the buffalo tongue, whilst Mr. Rundell, the assistant factor, cut up the beaver tails. There were also piles of potatoes, turnips and bread conveniently placed so each could help himself. Such was our jolly Christmas dinner at Edmonton, and long will it remain in my memory although no pies or puddings shed their fragrance over the table."

Christmas in Old Quebec

The French settlers along the St. Lawrence River in the seventeenth century were at least four months away from France during the summer months, and completely shut off during the winter when the river was closed to shipping by ice. Perhaps that was why the ceremonies and festivals of home were so dear to them, and none was more joyfully celebrated than the feast of Christmas. Here is how an historian described a Christmas in New France in 1658, when the colony was half a century old:

"At the feast, the Seigneur and his lady were seated in rough chairs at the head of a long table, which stretched the full length of the main room of the log manor-house. Ranged below them were lesser persons on crude benches. There

The Huron Carol, known as the first Canadian Christmas carol, has gained increasing popularity in Canada over the past three decades. It was written about 1641 by the Jesuit saint and Huron missionary, Jean de Brebeuf, in Quebec. After Brebeuf's martyrdom in 1649, Reverend Villeneuve, another missionary to the Hurons, wrote down the words of the hymn which was later translated into French by Paul Picard, a lawyer and member of the Huron tribe. The popular English translation now used extensively was published in 1942 by the Canadian Messenger of the Sacred Heart. When friends and families gather to sing the joyful Christmas songs and carols, they seldom pause to consider the origin of their selections. A few of the words may have been changed somewhat in translation, but the language of Christmas music is universal.

The Huron Carol

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'Twas in the moon of winter time when all the birds had fled,
That Mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:
"Jesus, your King, is born;
Jesus is born;
In Excelsis Gloria!"

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found.
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped His beauty 'round
And as the hunter braves drew high,
The angel song rang loud and high:
"Jesus, your King, is born;
Jesus is born;
In Excelsis Gloria!"

The earliest moon of winter time is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless Infant there.
While Chiefs from far before Him knelt,
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
"Jesus, your King, is born;
Jesus is born;
In Excelsis Gloria!"

O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heav'n is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant Boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
"Jesus, your King, is born;
Jesus is born;
In Excelsis Gloria!"

(Interpretation by J.F. Middleton)

was little silver plate in those days, but squares of birchbark and Indian bowls of polished basswood served the same purpose. Everyone carried his own knife. There were no forks, but bark spoons were provided.

"There were cakes of corn bread, great kettles of eels, salmon and beans all boiled together and served in the bowls. Then the same bowls were filled with a rich meat soup thickened with pounded nuts. Corn, peas and baked squash formed the next course, and then came the pièce de resistance. Great joints of roast venison were carved up, and deep squirrel pies were served. There were also baked pigeons, partridges, blackbirds and owls. For the dessert, there were cakes of maple sugar and a sweetmeat compounded of nuts and sunflower seeds served with a sauce of dried berries and boiling water."

Good Christmas cheer

The first record of a European-style Christmas in what is now Canada was observed in Port Royal on the Fundy shore of Nova Scotia in 1606. The settlement had been founded by Sieur de Monts and Samuel de Champlain who had set out from France in 1604, with a party of 120 emigrants, determined to establish

a French colony in the New World.

Their first settlement, founded in 1605 on an island at the mouth of the St. Croix River, turned out to be a disaster. The winter was much more severe than any of them had experienced in the temperate climate of France. Their food supplies ran low. Many of them suffered terribly from frostbite. And before spring arrived more than half of them had died from scurvy.

With summer, the remains of the colony moved across the Bay of Fundy to the Annapolis Basin and called their new habitation Port Royal. The leaders of the colony had learned something from their first winter. Champlain was particularly determined to maintain the morale of the settlers and to this end he established what he called L'Ordre de Bon Temps or The Order of Good Cheer. Under the rules of the order, each man in turn became Grand Master for the day, and had to organize meals and after-dinner entertainment: rivalry naturally developed with each man trying to outdo the others, and according to all reports the colony was a well-fed and lively place all winter long.

This was particularly true on Christmas day, when a special effort was made. The habitation was decorated with greenery

(Continued on P. 8)

Canadian Constitution awaits passage by British Parliament

Canada's new Constitution was sent to Britain, December 9, following its passage in the House of Commons and Senate.

After 14 months of debate on the subject, the House of Commons voted in favour of the resolution on December 3, by a vote of 246-24. Only 17 Progressive Conservatives, five Liberals and two New Democrats opposed the resolution. The measure did not require the unanimous consent of the House of Commons as reported in *Canada Weekly*, November 25, 1981.

The proposed Constitution then went to the Senate for debate and was passed, December 8, by a 59-23 final vote.

The 60-clause bill, dealing with the charter of rights, the proposed new amending formula and the new resources and taxing powers, was a substantially different document than the original resolution introduced in October 1980. At that time the federal government was proceeding unilaterally with the support of only Ontario and New Brunswick. The original resolution called for a different charter of rights and amending formula.

After the Senate vote, the Cabinet met to approve an order-in-council to the Queen giving Canada's formal consent to a change in the 1931 Statute of Westminster.

Special send-off

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The formal request to end Canada's last colonial legislative tie with Britain, along with two leather-bound copies of the resolution — one from the House of Commons, the other from the Senate — were later presented to Governor General Edward Schreyer. The documents were handed to the Governor General by House of Commons Speaker Jeanne Sauvé and Senate Speaker Jean Marchand in a rare, elaborate ceremony that had not been used in more than 30 years.

On hand to witness the event were Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, his Cabinet, members of the Liberal caucus, Conservative leader Joe Clark, about 30 members of his party, New Democratic Party leader Edward Broadbent and invited members of his party.

Mr. Schreyer gave the three documents to his secretary Esmond Butler, who along with Justice Minister Jean Chrétien flew to London with them. Mr. Butler deposited the two handilluminated copies of the resolution with his British counterpart.



Governor General Edward Schreyer receives copies of constitutional resolution from Commons speaker Jeanne Sauvé.

Mr. Chrétien met first with Sir Francis Pym, the government leader in the British House of Commons, and then with the Queen to explain the new proposals and ask her to transmit the resolution to the British House of Commons and the House of Lords. The Canadian government expects that the British Parliament will be able to give passage to the constitutional resolution when it resumes sitting following its Christmas break on January 18.

An accord, signed on November 5, between the federal government and nine of ten Canadian provinces, eased passage of the resolution in the Canadian Parliament and appears to ensure a relatively quick passage in Britain despite Quebec's stated intent to test its veto power again in the courts (see *Canada Weekly*, dated November 25, 1981).

Following passage of the constitutional resolution in the House of Commons, Quebec Premier René Lévesque tabled an order-in-council in Quebec's National Assembly asking the Quebec Court of Appeal to judge whether Quebec's consent is constitutionally required for adoption of the resolution.

Quebec Justice Minister Marc-André Bédard followed up by introducing a bill enabling the provincial government to refer the appeal court decision to the Supreme Court if necessary.

Final constitutional document

When passed by Westminster, the proposed Constitution Act will be the fifth

and final Constitution that the British Parliament has legislated for Canada since the eighteenth century.

The basic Canadian Constitution, the British North America Act of 1867, has been amended 16 times in the past 114 years but without any formal amending procedure being recognized until now. Its predecessors were the Quebec Act of 1774, the Constitutional Act of 1791 and the Union Act of 1840.

The long-desired patriation of the Constitution will clear the way for Parliament to deal with issues such as the clarification of aboriginal rights and attempts to end Quebec's continuing isolation. It has been suggested that further negotiations with the province of Quebec could take place after patriation of the Constitution.

The new Constitution sets rules to make further changes easier and calls for two compulsory First Ministers' meetings — one on aboriginal rights and the other on the amending formula.

Mr. Trudeau receives award



Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau speaks to guests at a dinner in New York City at which he was presented with the 1981 Society for the Family of Man gold medallion. Mr. Trudeau was the nineteenth recipient of the humanitarian award made annually by the Council of Churches of the City of New York, an ecumenical group representing most major Christian and Jewish denominations. Sixteen years ago the late Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson received the third award.

events. Alpine skiing

The year 1981 in pictures - so vents on the Canadian scene

Photos (left to right, top row): . Canada's space arm, the Canadarm, successfully performed a series of tests during the second flight of the United States' space shuttle, Columbia. Astronauts Joe Engle and Dick Truly conducted the tests on the \$100-million remote manipulator system that took eight years to develop. Canadarm, designed by the National Research Council of Canada, was built by Spar Aerospace Limited of Toronto. • Michael Warren took over as the president of the new Canada Post Corporation. The changeover from a federal government department into a Crown corporation was a first. Canada's Wonderland in Maple near Toronto opened in May. Considered by some to be the Disneyland of the North, the park's central feature is a manmade mountain surrounded by 360 acres of fantasy. Thérèse Casgrain, a pioneer of women's rights in Quebec and an activist for Canadian unity, died at the age of 85. Mrs. Casgrain was the first member of the New Democratic Party to be named to the Senate. (Middle row): King Hussein of Jordan, accompanied by Queen Noor, visited Canada where he met with Governor General Schreyer and Prime Minister Trudeau. The visit was the third to Canada by the Jordanian King in seven years. Canada will open an embassy in Amman, Jordan in the coming vear. Les Bons Débarras (Good Riddance) starring Marie Tifo swept the Academy of Canadian Cinema awards. The Frenchlanguage film, dealing with a relationship between a mother and her possessive daughter, won eight Genies. Miss Tifo won the award for best actress, with the film also taking honours for best supporting actor and best director. • United States President Ronald Reagan visited Ottawa, his first trip abroad after assuming office. Prime Minister Trudeau and President Reagan met for talks on international and bilateral issues. Mr. Reagan also addressed a joint session of the House of Commons and Senate. The visit included the signing of Canada-United States agreements on the North American Aerospace Defence Command and on social secu-



Canada-Zairean bilateral meeting

The first meeting of the Canada-Zairean bilateral commission took place in Ottawa, November 23-25.

The Zaire delegation was led by Lengema Dulia Yubasa Makanga, Secretary of State for International Co-operation of Zaire. The Canadian delegation was led by Minister of State Serge Joyal.

During his visit to Canada, Mr. Lengema held private discussions on Canada-Zairean relations with Mr. Joyal and Minister of Regional and Economic Expansion Pierre De Bané. Mr. De Bané hosted a dinner on behalf of the Canadian government in honour of Secretary of State Lengema and the Zairean delegation. The Secretary of State for International Co-operation of Zaire also met with Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs Jacques Gignac.

The Canadian and Zairean representatives expressed their desire to expand and further develop Canada-Zairean relations, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

The two sides discussed ongoing pro-

jects in their co-operation program and laid the foundation for future operations based on two priority sectors, namely rural development and forestry. The Zairean side expressed its satisfaction with Canada's decision to continue to provide support for projects under way and to increase its financial and technical assistance by the introduction of new co-operation mechanisms.

The parties examined a number of new projects that would contribute to the economic and social development of Zaire in the coming years. Canada gave assurances that it would co-operate towards achieving the goals that had been set, within the limits of the available financial and human resources.

The two delegations also looked at the state of trade relations between the two countries and agreed to seek ways of increasing the volume of exchanges.

Yuletide stamps bear Christmas trees

This year's Christmas postage stamps issued by Canada Post Corporation mark the bicentennial of the first illuminated Canadian Christmas tree erected at Sorel, Quebec by a German family.

"Canadians of German descent have actively participated for over 300 years in the economic, social, and cultural development of Canada. The introduction of the illuminated Christmas tree stands as one of their more visible and lasting contributions to our Canadian traditions and way of life," said André Ouellet, Minister responsible for Canada Post Corporation.



CANADA 15
Merry Christmas Joyeux Noel
1881

In 1781 at Sorel, Quebec, Friederike von Riedesel and her husband Friedrich introduced the illuminated Christmas tree to Canada. Major General Friedrich von Riedesel came to Canada with his wife and children in 1776. He was in charge of a contingent of German troops sent to help put down the American revolution. But he was captured by the Americans and along with his family spent two years in captivity and two further years in the United States before returning to Quebec in 1781 to a posting in Sorel.

Idea becomes widespread

To celebrate Christmas, Friederike Riedesel had the idea of putting up an illuminated tree.

The idea caught on, and by the late nineteenth century even settlers on the prairies regarded a tree as an essential part of the Yuletide festivities. Thus, introduced in French Canada by the wife of a German general working for the English, the Christmas tree idea spread across the whole country.

The three 15-cent stamps were designed by Toronto artist Anita Kunz, a Canadian of German ancestry. The 1781 stamp features a tree decorated with ornaments that might have been used by the Baroness Friederike von Riedesel; the 1881 stamp, a tree with late nineteenth century decorations; and the 1981 stamp, a modern tree with glass balls and electric lights.



Doll doctoring

"The eyes are in good condition. That's important. We'll mould that finger on."

Those comforting, vaguely medical words are the kind of thing Olive Matheson has found herself saying many times since she opened the Windsor Doll Hospital before the Second World War.

"There's a need for someone to repair dolls. A doll to a child is like a person."

Miss Matheson started her career as a doll doctor when she was in Toronto looking for work and chanced to visit a doll hospital where she was offered a job.

"I wasn't particularly interested in dolls," she says now. But her interest grew and when she moved to Windsor, Ontario she set up a shop with a red cross on the door.

She soon found out how impatient some of her young customers can be.

The case of one father and daughter is typical. "They were there at eight in the morning waiting for me. Something had fallen off the doll and the child had wanted to go to hospital at 1 a.m. The father had been up with her all night," said Miss Matheson, who now works out of her home.

"People will bring in the same doll year after year to be restored because the child likes that particular doll. They want the hair shampooed or curled. Sometimes older people bring in dolls to have them fixed up to hand down to the next generation," she said.

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A British Columbia pianist has been awarded the first Sylva Gelber Foundation Award.

John Kimura, 22, from Burnaby, British Columbia was presented the award at a recent gala concert at the Banff Centre. He is presently at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City.

The prize, worth \$5,000, is administered by the Canada Council and has been created by a foundation established by Sylva Gelber of Ottawa, Miss Gelber is a former director of the Women's Bureau in the federal government and is a member of a family well-known for its support of the arts.

The award is intended to provide greater opportunities for talented young Canadian musicians in the field of classical music. It will be given each year by a jury of professional musicians to an outstanding candidate under 30 years of age.

Perry Como Christmas special filmed in Quebec



Olympic skating champion Dorothy Hamill (left) and Quebec singer and four-time Félix award winner Diane Tell join Perry Como in admiring an Inuit sculpture presented to him by the Canadian government during the recent filming of his Christmas television special in Montreal and Quebec City.

Children's holiday programs

The National Museum of Natural Sciences, the Public Archives of Canada and the Art Gallery of Ontario presented special programs in December designed to help put children into the spirit of Christmas.

The National Museum of Natural Sciences in Ottawa presented an exhibition, entitled *In Search of the Unicorn.* Children from local schools provided the basis for the exhibition, which comprised 100 drawings of unicorns. The drawings,

done at the museum by the youngsters, were used to make a slide show that is being shown into the New Year.

Unicorns have long represented the myths and fantasies that people have about the animals. The exhibition called a "children's extravaganza" featured not only the unicorn, but other mythical beasts, including dragons and kraken (sea monsters).

In Search of the Unicorn also pointed out some of the realities behind the myths by portraying not only the colour-

ful and phantasmagorical aspects of the creatures but also the history of the unicorn, dragon and kraken.

Visitors to the exhibition were also treated to the music of roving minstrels.

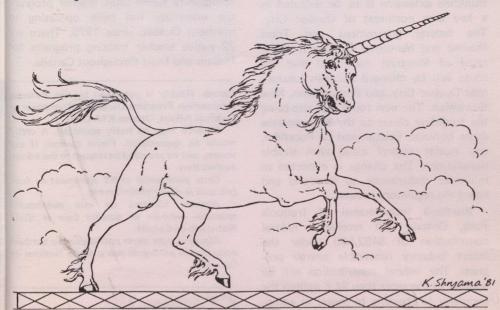
The Public Archives of Canada, also in Ottawa, presented children's activities as part of its Laurier House Christmas program. Laurier House, the former home of prime ministers Sir Wilfrid Laurier and William Lyon MacKenzie King, is now a museum administered by the Public Archives.

Old-fashioned decorations

Children were invited to participate in the making of nineteenth-century style Christmas decorations and in the trimming of a tree at Laurier House. The program also included films and slides outlining the history of Christmas.

The Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto held a festival weekend for familities, who were invited to enjoy the charm of the gallery at holiday time, with trees, hot cider and caroling choirs. The two-day festival featured activities and entertainment throughout the gallery.

Children gathered for story hours, made bubble magic with soap and strings, watched films and accompanied their parents on theme tours of the galleries. Ned Hanson's Boys' Choir of Toronto performed Christmas carols during the festival.



The unicorn, a mythical creature, formed the basis for an exhibit at the museum.

Christmas (continued from P. 2)

brought in from the surrounding woods, and the tables groaned under a burden of roast moose, wild duck stewed with cranberries, whitefish that had been caught through the ice, stewed rabbit, and cakes made from corn meal and nuts. Afterwards, there was a play based on the story of the three kings, who followed the star to Bethlehem, and the singing of Christmas songs.

One of the colonists, Marc Lescarbot, who wrote the history of the settlement, concluded his description of the Christmas feast with these words: "Whatever our delicate epicures at home might think, we found as good cheer at Port Royal that night as they did in their fine Paris restaurants, and at a much cheaper rate."

(Excerpts from Canadian Scene, November 21, 1980.)

News briefs

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has released a 196-page report providing a detailed analysis of the market structure, and economic behaviour and performance of the \$625-million groundfish industry on Canada's east coast. The report, entitled Structure, Behaviour and Performance of the Atlantic Groundfish Industry with Special Reference to the Quality Improvement Program, also contains an evaluation of the federal government's recently-introduced fish quality improvement program.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), in conjunction with approximately 30 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), recently presented an international development week called "Window on the South" in Hull, Quebec. The events of the week took place in a Third World village setting where representatives from various developing countries, members of NGOs, as well as former CIDA officials were on hand to share and discuss their experiences with the general public throughout the week.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has concluded a \$6.82 (U.S.) financing agreement to support an \$8.05 million (U.S.) sale by CAE Electronics Limited of Saint-Laurent, Quebec, to Korean Airlines Company Limited. The transaction involves the sale of one B747 lation, calibration and support services.



Ottawa firefighter Ron Bouer collects donations from the crowd during the city's annual Help Santa Toy Parade. More than \$16,000 was collected, along with three large truckloads of new and nearly new toys, which were turned over to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy children. As they have every year for the last ten, members of the Ottawa Professional Fire Fighters Association took donations and toys for the needy from the thousands who lined the route.

The federal and Nova Scotia governments have signed a mineral development agreement, designed to strengthen the mineral sector of the province. Under the three-year agreement, \$2.7 million in federal funding and \$1.24 million in provincial funding will be used for geoscientific and mineral development projects to be carried out concurrently by Energy, Mines and Resources Canada and the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy.

The Montreal-Maritimes natural gas trunkline extension is to be rerouted in a key area northeast of Quebec City. The federal government and Trans Quebec and Maritimes Pipeline Incorporated of Montreal confirmed that the route will be changed between Lauzon, near Quebec City, and Edmundston, New Brunswick. The new route will also bring the trunkline closer to the St. Lawrence shore between Lauzon and La Pocatière. and nearer several cities with sizable populations. The change is expected to minimize disturbance to farmland and speed the regulatory process.

Bio-Shell Incorporated of Iroquois Falls, Ontario will receive a federal contribution of \$482,500 under the forest industry renewable energy program. The federal contribution will be applied to the more than \$4.8 million the flight simulator, including on-site instal- 3 0 company is planning to invest in equipment needed to convert wood residues

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into fuel. This investment will enable Bio-Shell Incorporated to convert waste material into a useful source of renewable energy equivalent to nearly 300,000 barrels of oil a year.

The Donner Canadian Foundation has given McGill a \$400,000 grant to establish a four-year teachers program in the Northwest Territories. The program will be administered jointly by the university's faculty of education and centre for northern studies and research. The 13course, 45-credit program is similar to a community based Inuit teacher program the university has been operating in northern Quebec since 1975. There are 22 native teacher training programs for Indians and Inuit throughout Canada.

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