



news release

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CANADA DAY AT AUSTRALIA'S EXPO 88

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA -- 1 JULY 1988 -- Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski joined Rick Hansen in Brisbane, Australia today to mark Canada's national day at World EXPO 88. Rick Hansen is Commissioner General for Canada at the World Fair that began on 30 April and continues through until the end of October.

Speaking at the formal ceremony to raise Canada's flag, Mr. Mazankowski said "Our participation at EXPO 88 is Canada's major contribution to helping Australia celebrate its bicentenary. Like our own EXPO 86 two years ago in Vancouver, the exposition has electrified the country."

Canada's national day was the high-point of four days of entertainment and special events. An all-Canadian variety show at the 10,000-seat main stage featured Cape Breton singer/songwriter Rita MacNeil, comic/singing impressionist André-Philippe Gagnon, the 47-member RCMP Concert Band and "Paskwa Enuwak", a Cree Indian dance group from Saskatchewan.

There was also a special presentation of award-winning animated short films from the National Film Board.

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Balloons, flags and birthday greetings made Canada Day in Brisbane a memorable event, easily the biggest international celebration to date on the EXPO site.

A colourful bed and bathtub race, a pancake-flipping contest and a pancake and maple syrup breakfast organized by Canada Pavilion staff put the whole EXPO 88 site in the mood for Canada's 121st birthday party.

The Canada pavilion continues to draw record crowds and rave reviews. Rick Hansen said "Australians and Canadians have a lot in common. In particular, we share a keen desire for having a good time and a love of the outdoors. At the Canada Pavilion, we do our best to show a vigorous adventurous Canada. The theme of World EXPO 88 is 'Leisure in the Age of Technology' and our exhibits reflect the fact that Canada is not only a prime tourist and business target but also a world leader in high-technology leisure products."

Canada Day festivities did not stop at the EXPO gates. Canada Week at EXPO 88 was celebrated in downtown Brisbane with banners across the streets, posters and displays in shopping malls and extensive radio and television coverage.

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