

Niagara area bloom under way

NIAGARA FALLS — A colorful explosion of pink and white blossoms will greet visitors to this year's Niagara Blossom Festival that gets underway today.

An almost unbroken parade of blooms wends its way through 42,000 acres of orchards from atop the Niagara Escarpment above Stoney Creek to famed Niagara-On-the-Lake and on to Queenston Heights.

Pear blossoms were out in full bloom this week. Pink and white peach, cherry, and plum blossoms are expected to be at their most colorful, fragrant best this weekend. Warm, sunny weather is forecast.

Drivers who want to take time to enjoy the blossoms can follow a well-marked route covering 55 miles off the main arteries. The scenic route starts along Mud Street (Road 11) at Highway 20 just

east of Hamilton to Queenston Heights.

While the route passes Grimsby, St. Catharines and Vineland, all major events during the eight-day festival will be held in Niagara Falls. It runs through the holiday May 24 weekend.

First event is the preliminary judging of those competing for the "Miss Niagara Hospitality" crown and title. The girls will also compete for the "Miss Talent" and "Miss Congeniality" awards.

Sunday afternoon, the 120 piece Pequannock Township High School Band, from Pompton Plains, N.J., will make the welkins ring in Oakes Garden Theatre.

Sunday also marks the date of the Historic Automobile Society of Canada's annual Blossom Tour of the area. Dozens of vintage motor cars will help recapture the gay days of the turn of the century.

The third annual Chefs of Niagara competition takes place at 5 p.m. Thursday, co-sponsored by Provincial Gas. It is open to all professional chefs in the Niagara area. A second contest will run at the same time—open to all area housewives and amateur chefs.

North America's oldest and Canada's official game, lacrosse, comes back to the Falls with a vengeance in international competition, the Niagara Falls Hawks challenging the Newton, N.Y. Golden Eagles.

Saturday, May 22, brings a full 12 hours of fun and frolic to the Festival. Well over 2,500 will participate in the annual Blossom Festival Parade. At 3:00 p.m., the annual tug of war between the police forces of Niagara Falls, Ontario and Niagara Falls, N.Y. takes place at the International Boundary on the Rainbow Bridge. Shortly after the tug of war, the mayors of the two cities will compete in their annual English Dart Contest.

The day winds up with the Blossom Dance at the city's Memorial Arena. A special attraction at the dance will be the crowning of Miss Niagara Hospitality.

On Sunday, May 23, the colourful inter-faith Blessing of the Blossoms takes place in Oakes Garden Theatre.

BLOSSOM TIME

According to the Ontario tender fruit experts the next 10 days will reveal an almost unbroken parade of blossoms in the Niagara Peninsula. A well marked scenic route, at right, has been developed over 55 miles off the main arteries. The route is posted for travel in either direction and starts along Mud Street (Road 11) at Highway 20 just east of Hamilton to Queenston Heights. Blossoms are to peak for the May 24 holiday weekend.



TOP HEIFER AT CANADIAN CLASSIC — This 11 months old calf, Spring Farm Citation Rachel, brought \$5,500.00, the highest price for a heifer calf at the Canadian Classic Holstein sale held at Glanworth, Ont., recently. At left is Jack Pickel, of Jack Pickel & Sons, St. Marys, the buyers, while at the right are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fraser, representing the seller, Spring Farms, Streetsville. *May 19, 1971*



This young lady framed with blossoms makes a perfect picture, so don't forget your camera on the blossom tour of the Niagara fruit belt.

