

# Editorial Page

## Celebrating Canada's Centenary

Recently the bulletin published by the Royal Bank of Canada contained some interesting and idea-stimulating discussion on Canada's centennial. We are reproducing it here for our readers.

To people with imperceptive minds the emergence of Canada as a nation is remote and shadowy, but to those with a feeling for the force of history it is as close as yesterday.

The hundredth anniversary of the confederation of the provinces is a mere six years ahead of us, and planning has already begun so that we may celebrate the event on a grand scale. We cannot be content to have only parades and pageants. These are part of our expression of pleasure, but some projects of lasting benefit should show to ourselves and the world that we plan for a great future, suitable to a great country.

The year 1967 can be a wonderful year, like a break of open sky and sunshine in a cloudy world. We should look forward to it in the spirit expressed by Prince Philip in an address on a similar occasion: "There should be general public festivities, gaiety, and enjoyment, because there can never be enough excuses to put troubles aside and to refresh the mind with unrestrained joy; there should be a humble thanksgiving to the Almighty whose influence over the lives of the people has made possible their peaceful progress."

Our celebration of events of the past, expressed in the joy of the present, will be broadened down to the future by our erection, between now and the end of 1967, of tangible evidences of our pride in our history and our faith in our future. This constructive activity will also exhibit us to the world as ongoing people, building upon a substantial base the appurtenances of a happy life.

The celebration is not one to be arranged by the Federal government alone, but for provinces, regions, municipalities and associations of citizens.

### Have an Objective

It will make the Centenary more interesting if we give a point to our plans. Our aim might be, for example, to expand our opportunities for advancement in education, health, science, the arts, and the exchange of ideas. We can, if we set our minds to it, uncover areas in our national life which have been neglected, we can find splendid ideas which have never progressed past the dreamed-about stage. If we make up some of our cultural deficits during the next six years, then we shall have that much more to celebrate in 1967.

What are these cultural deficits? They are things which a country settled nearly 350 years ago and politically united nearly 100 years ago should have by this time; organization and the physical properties for the production of music, plays, ballet and all expressions of our artistic nature; for the training and use of athletes; for the development of ideas through lectures, study groups and seminars.

Instead of bronze plaques and marble columns we might build significant community improvements, like new parks, new roads, new city halls, new city libraries, new community buildings, libraries, museums. These are things we want anyway; preparation for our centenary gives us the opportunity and incentive to get them now.

During the year, and the Centenary year, let us give ourselves a chance to share a more meaningful television program of stature every week depicting some event that was significant in our history. We could have special music, plays and books prepared for publication and production that year. Nathaniel A. Benson wrote a Victory Loan Pageant which was produced and acted by children in schools from coast to coast in 1941 and is still remembered for its stirring presentation of the past and present and future of Canada.

"She whose centuries are storied, whose young banners fly airborne  
Are the heralds of a splendour in the ages yet unborn."

Between now and the beginning of 1967 we might produce films and publish books for distribution abroad to induce people to visit Canada in our Centenary year. Conferences could be organized by business, labour, science, agriculture, education, government, history and professional groups and associations to be held at different times that year in widely separated centres from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and interested people from all the world invited to attend.

It is not too early to start planning. We as individuals need to prepare for our participation and our enjoyment, but governments must also look to their bookkeeping. A national anniversary like Canada's is too big for casual methods.

### A Party for Everyone

This Centenary is for everyone. The celebrations will not be alike in all parts of the country, but all will be marking the same happy event.

Everything should not be scheduled to happen on the First of July. Events should be spread out throughout the year to suit the weather, the regional interests, the special days, and the state of readiness of building projects in every section of the country. This will have the big added advantage of giving all of us the opportunity to share in more than one event; thus learning about one another.

There can be festivals of all kinds at all levels, with every community and organization featuring whatever is a natural reflection of its people. It is not enough to decorate the main street and public buildings; we need to use our imagination, our art and our energy to produce dramatizations of Canada's past. We can open up and mark the old trails and canoe routes which were the first links in exploration and settlement of our country. We can arrange for groups of entertainers who have skills and crafts and arts typical of their own part of Canada to visit other parts. We can start now the sports events which will have their final tilts in 1967.

How is all this to be arranged? Not by a dictatorial central organization, but by the grass roots participation of all our people in planning and carrying out. Once a broadly representative central organization has laid down general principles, then local groups should take over and plan their own celebrations in their own way.

The central organization has been working on the plan since the Canadian Association for Adult Education and the Canadian Citizenship Council started the wheels turning in 1957. In May, 1960, the Canadian Centenary Council was organized as a national non-governmental body. Its purpose is to provide expression and involvement at a national level by voluntary non-governmental organizations in planning for the anniversary of Confederation in 1967.

This purpose is to be attained by stimulating interest in appropriate observances and celebrations; by establishing principles and objectives and directing public attention to them; by encouraging and assisting in the initiation of certain projects which are designed to eradicate our social deficits; by acting as a national clearing house and information centre, by providing planning facilities and services. Mr. Alan Clarke, Executive Director of the Canadian Citizenship Council, is Secretary of the Canadian Centenary Council. His address is Postal Box 2310, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario.

### Why Celebrate?

We have taken for granted that every Canadian will be eager to take part in the Centenary, but it will do us no harm to list a few of the good reasons for being joyful.

We do not wish to approach the celebration bathed in the dewy evening light of retrospect, yet it would be wrong not to lay the lessons of yesterday before tomorrow. We can well look back and ask "How does this affect our life today? What lessons have we learned for the future?"

(Continued next week)

## Sunny Sunday



—Photo by Esther Taylor

## Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

rano carries the melody; the kids are driving her crazy, the car is full of rattles, the lawn is burned to a crisp, and there are hordes of visitors about to descend. My croaky baritone plays the accompaniment. The course is impossibly hard, I'm working like a dog, the city is an inferno and I'm sick of restaurant meals. This ancient chant, as familiar and fascinating as ever, carries on far into the night, over countless pots of tea, coffee or anything-else that's handy and we totter off to bed, awash, about 3 a.m.

I have scarcely closed my eyes when one of the kids is shaking me vigorously and asking, "What time are we going swimming, Dad?" It is 8 a.m. Somewhere or other, they have picked up the notion that my entire weekend is to be devoted to togetherness. And somehow or other, that's about the way it turns out. By Sunday night, I look and feel like a sales manager who has been entertaining a couple of out-of-town clients. I'm sunburned again, there isn't a cold beer left in the house and I've been on a 36-hour treadmill of swimming, bowling, trampoline and cook-outs.

### G.A.D. About

#### Old-Time Garden Parties

There seems to be only one topic of general interest these days. Everyone is either on them or planning to go on holidays. I am not very good on this topic and I do not even have any fond recollections on the subject, either. There were no summer camps or planned recreation for the children. We were free to make our own recreation and our parents were much too busy with their own lives and as I look back, it is remarkable how little trouble we got into.

Of course, there was only one constant in town to get us out of trouble and he had a lot of other projects on his mind, such as repairing wooden sidewalks and lighting all the oil street lamps every night and the very thought of being reported by Dan Graham was sufficient deterrent to get us in the right mood. There was no radio or TV and I recall that when the first motor car was reported it was described as a wagon without any horses and no tongue or shafts either.

You can readily perceive that I am no one to discuss the subject of holidays in their present light. This item may even be short of its accustomed space.

I wonder if any of my readers do remember the garden parties that used to fill the summer all across from June to Fall. For me, the garden party was of course the favorite, but there were others who were comedians and meat-comedians and singers and clowns, etc., and there was the band which played while all were invited to patently the refreshment booth, on the grounds. Some of the garden parties used to provide lunch at the start of strawberries and cream, as well as a program. There was a complete evening at an old-time garden party and often it was midnight before it was ended with the national anthem. Most of the churches held garden parties but the ugly

day night, I look and feel like a sales manager who has been entertaining a couple of out-of-town clients. I'm sunburned again, there isn't a cold beer left in the house and I've been on a 36-hour treadmill of swimming, bowling, trampoline and cook-outs.

Around 10 that night, the "clients" are draped on their beds like a couple of wet towels, the Old Girl is yawning wildly and the cat, who is pregnant, by the way, is bedded down for the night. It is time for Dad to start his Latin homework so he can get it done by 1:30, so he can get up at 5:30, so he can drive back to the city for an 8 o'clock lecture. I'm not complaining, mind you. But compared to the monastic simplicity of my scholarly, leisurely week, the weekend at home is about as restful as eating lunch off a moving conveyor belt with one hand, while pulling on your trousers with the other.

### U.S. Price Up

#### Rear End Crash

Because of increased postal rates, this paper's subscriptions to United States after August 1, 1967 will be \$3. Subscriptions to England and other commonwealth countries will remain at \$4 and subscriptions to Canadian subscribers remain at \$3 yearly.

### REAR END CRASH

A car driven by James A. McNabb of 47 Queen St. East received \$150 in an accident at Milton Saturday evening.

McNabb had stopped behind another car at the Base Line-Highway 25 intersection when his car was struck from the rear by a car driven by a Bronte man. The other car received \$75 damage. North Halton O.P.P. investigated.

Canadians own \$2,300 worth of life insurance per person.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### BACK IN 1911

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 27, 1911

Last Saturday a man from Milton was fined for bathing in the creek without a bathing suit. His friend who accompanied him had received the same treatment only the week before.

A farmer who lives on the second line complained this week that two young men from Acton invaded his berry patch on Sunday afternoon and proceeded to pick berries most of the afternoon. When they had finished they boldly paraded down the line to Acton. He reported that if this occurred again he would take some action. Sunday berry picking is illegal and the offenders might be well warned, not to repeat this action.

During council meeting Monday night the Warren Park survey was submitted. The survey comprises 69 fine building lots which Mr. Warren intends putting on the market immediately. The new county steamroller has been at work in town the past week and being very capable operated by Arthur Salter, one of the County Council's expert roadmakers. He came from England last year and has years of experience at this work. When the job is completed Acton will have some of the finest roads in the area.

Messrs. A. J. McNabb and his brother William, were in Toronto last week attending a meeting of the heirs of the estate of the late Col. Baker, Philadelphia, whose estate is reported to be worth over \$200,000,000. The estate consists of cash in American currency and valuable coal fields in Pennsylvania. The Messrs. McNabb's mother was a Baker and a niece of the Colonel's.

On Tuesday three rinks of bowlers from Guelph visited Acton and an enjoyable evening was spent on the greens. When final score had been added, Acton won out. At the conclusion of play everyone enjoyed a social time in the clubhouse and on the lawn.

Council approved a request by the Fire Brigade to have the creek on Main Street dammed in order for them to get water for the engine more easily. Chairman Bell of the Streets and Works discussed the subject and came up with a solution which will be followed immediately.

### BACK IN 1941

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 31, 1941

Lloyd Primeau, Chatham, was one of two men charged with stealing a car and breaking and entering the blacksmith shop of James Gilmore and stealing tools. Primeau was one of two men pursued by police last week and was apprehended in Toronto after Provincial police had chased him into the Lake.

The new brick addition at the Wool Combing plant is nearing completion. The brick wall is finished and the steel beams laid for the first floor and roof. Another improvement being made at the expanding plant is the installation of a railway siding when a new spur was put in this week allowing the tracks to run closer to the plant.

W.J. Gould and W.H. Clayton competed in the Scotch doubles lawn bowling tournament at Milton last Friday and brought home first place trophy. This is the challenge cup which must be defended within 48 hours after the challenge has been given.

Pte. Orville Brown, formerly of Acton, now serving with the Lorne Scots Regiment overseas, has been awarded a parchment by the Royal Canadian Humane Society for bravery and heroic action in saving others from death by drowning.

Last summer Mr. Brown saved John Wilson from drowning in Fairy Lake. It required several diving attempts by him before the lad was brought to the surface.

During the meeting of the Acton School board Tuesday evening applications for the position of secretary-treasurer were reviewed and trustees agreed to hire W. G. Middleton at an annual salary of \$150. Following the resignation of Captain Allan J. Buchanan it was agreed to appoint W. H. Clayton to fill the vacancy.

During the Public Utilities meeting last week it was agreed to leave the power rates the same as last year. A complaint was received from Beardmore and Company regarding a low power factor at certain times. The superintendent was instructed to look into the matter and an agreement to correct this interference was reached.

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