

LETTER FROM IN FOCUS



The August long weekend always seems to sneak up on me. The summer flies by: one minute it's Canada Day, then BAM – it's time for another long weekend (not that I'm complaining, of course).

To help myself prepare for the upcoming holiday, I did a little research and stumbled across some interesting facts about this sneaky mid-summer long weekend. So sit back, relax and enjoy these interesting Civic Holiday tidbits.

- Historically, the holiday celebrated the end of slavery. The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 came into effect August 1, 1834, officially ending slavery in the British Empire.
- Celebrated the first Monday in August, the Civic Holiday goes by different names in different provinces: British Columbia Day, Saskatchewan Day, New Brunswick Day. Nunavut, Manitoba, PEI and the Northwest Territories simply call it Civic Holiday, while in Ontario it's unofficially known as Simcoe Day, named after...
- ...John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (now known as Ontario), who ended slavery in Upper Canada long before it was abolished in the rest of the British Empire. He also founded York (now Toronto) and helped establish law and order in the area.
- Instead of Simcoe Day, some towns in Ontario host celebrations named after local historical figures. Ottawa celebrates Colonel By Day, Burlington is home to Joseph Brant Day, Guelph has John Galt Day and Hamilton holds George Hamilton Day (no, not the orange guy).

I don't know if these facts will help me remember the Civic Holiday (which, for the record, is August 6 this year), but at least I know why I have that Monday off.

But before you start planning your Simcoe Day celebrations, take a moment to check out this edition of In Focus. Inside you'll find oodles of summer fun, from Canada Day parties to fundraisers and much more. And if you have a photo you'd like to see in our next issue, just send it in. We love hearing from you!

Happy August!

Andrea Lefebvre
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Even more HAIR-RAISING ADVENTURES



Nine-year-old Emily Mowat has a cute new 'do for summer after cutting off 10 inches of her hair to donate to Continental Hair's Hair for Kids program. Bravo!

Photo by Andrea Lefebvre



Two years ago, (ABOVE) Sarah Laurie and her grade 6 teacher Liz Cook each cut off 10 inches of hair to donate to Locks of Love. This year, (BELOW) the duo decided to do it again. Sarah lopped off 11 inches of hair and Liz chopped off 10, which will be donated to Locks of Love. The two plan to grow out their hair and repeat the donation process in another two years. Well done, ladies!

Photos submitted by Jacqueline Laurie



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