



Happy 115th birthday Canada



You can join in the celebrations



O Canada!
 Our home and native land!
 True patriot love
 in all thy sons command.
 With glowing hearts
 we see thee rise,
 The True North
 strong and free!
 From far and wide,
 O Canada,
 We stand on guard
 for thee.
 God keep our land
 glorious and free!
 O Canada,
 we stand on guard for thee.
 O Canada,
 we stand on guard for thee.

Have you ever been to a Strawberry Social? Played "skin the snake"? Eaten buffalo burgers or drunk moose milk?

On July 1 in Canada, you can do all this and more as we celebrate our 115th birthday. Canadians from one end of the country to the other are participating in a giant birthday party with picnics and parades, festivals and fireworks.

Community groups across the country have been working for months to stage a wide variety of festivities. There are events for the young and old, events which reflect our multicultural heritage and those that focus on our pioneer past. In every event, there is the occasion for Canadians to join their friends and neighbours in affirming their sense of community and their commitment to Canada.

In every province and territory there are activities too numerous to mention and only a few are listed here.

The party begins in St. John's Newfoundland as the day is ushered in with a sunrise ceremony on Signal Hill. The day continues with concerts of traditional music, sports events and multicultural festivals in various towns and outports.

In Prince Edward Island, there will be clam-bakes, bonfires and barbecues. Planes of the Canadian Armed Forces are staging a province-wide flypast, synchronized with the raising of the flag in dozens of communities.

New Brunswick is celebrating in a variety of ways.

Near Fredericton, there's a Coal Mining Festival, a Reversing Falls Regatta in St. John, a multicultural party in Moncton and in Shippagan "on fele le Canada comme dans le bon vieux temps."

In Quebec, there are parties big and small. In Montreal, le Vieux Port is the site of "Le Bal du Canada" with stages for ethnic dancing, children's theatre, concerts, a variety show in the evening, fireworks and more dancing. In northern Quebec the tiny town of Mistouk celebrates its centennial and, in Trois-Rivieres, like many other communities, it's a family day of fun and games.

The party in Punkydoodle's Corner, Ontario, is, believe it or not, typical of the many activities being organized by community groups in that province. Three counties of Ontario meet at Punkydoodle's Corner and a huge family picnic is planned. The highlight of the day's events is the encasing in cement of the often-stolen signpost.

Celebrations are taking place all over Manitoba. In Winnipeg, a feature of the official ceremonies is the presentation of research done by high school students about Manitoba pioneers.

The highlight of Saskatchewan celebrations is undoubtedly the reenactment of the Temperance Trek, a wagon trek by the Temperance Colonists from Moose Jaw to Saskatoon. These two cities also celebrate their centennials.

In Alberta, there are old time fairs and folk festivals in numerous communities. Official ceremonies and parties take place on the grounds of the Legislature Buildings in Edmonton and on Princess Island in Calgary. Among the featured events in Lethbridge is the flypast by the Lethbridge Flying Club "Slowbirds".

In British Columbia, they have a logger sports day in Lumby, a native Indian festival for children in Chilliwack, and a folk festival in Vancouver, among hundreds of other events.

In Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, they are going

non-stop from noon to midnight with ceremonies, games and shows, and because it never gets really dark, a display of brilliance enhanced fireworks. In Dawson, the "City of Gold", there will be a contest of traditional Inuit games; blanket toss, nose and ear pull, dog team races and a high kick competition.

The Northwest Territories is also sharing the special fireworks. In Yellowknife, they have a busy day centred around children and family and featuring, among other things, a septic tank race. In Hay River, they are racing hand-built log rafts, and in Nanasivik, there's a 42 km marathon. Special guests at this event are Terry Fox's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rollie Fox.

In the nation's capital, the day begins with ceremonies on Parliament Hill and continues with a potpourri of multicultural dancing, children's theatre, sports and games. In the evening, thousands of people will gather again on Parliament Hill for a variety show featuring entertainers from across the country.

As part of the entire celebration, Canadians, wherever they may be, are invited to join in the singing of "O Canada" at noon, local time.

Happy Birthday, Canada.

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Lots
 to do
 July
 1st

Penetanguishene and Midland will be among the more than 500 Canadian communities from coast to coast that will mark Canada's 115th birthday on July 1 with special events.

For happenings that are planned for Penetanguishene on July 1 turn to Page 11.

Meanwhile members of Midland Rotary Club are gearing up for their famed "Dockside Garage Sale and Bar-b-que."

The big bash starts at 10 a.m. Thursday and wraps up at 7 p.m.

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