

# True north, strong and free, celebrates 133

Children celebrate Canada's birthday with fireworks, wishes for peace

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
Staff Writer

Canada, through the eyes of a child, is the best country in the whole wide world.

As the finishing touches are being put on upcoming Canada Day celebrations, children across York Region are pausing to reflect on their native and adopted land.

Canada will be 133 years old today. Our children know why they're celebrating, why they're standing on guard and why they're saluting their beloved country.

They tell us why.

Laura Devuono, a Grade 2 student at St. Monica Catholic School in Markham, appreciates never having been subjected to war.

"Canada's a very safe country," Laura said.

While Toronto's SkyDome and the neighbouring city's skyscrapers can, on occasion hide the heavens, it doesn't upset Laura.

"We've got the tallest building in the world. I like it. Canada's got lots and lots of golf courses and we've got fireworks whenever we want them," Laura said.

On Saturday, Laura will make a special birthday wish for Canada.

"I wish that all the people who steal and do bad things will stop," she said.

**There are no soldiers falling from airplanes on to our streets.**

Cody Wells

Cody Wells, 7, will do Canada proud. "I'm going to see the fireworks. Then, I'll eat birthday cake and sing Happy Birthday Canada."

Cody also recognizes that he lives in a peace-loving country.

"There are no soldiers falling from airplanes on to our streets," Cody said.

In Canada, there's a "chance to learn and a chance to go to good schools", Sherman Chiu, 8, said.



**LAURA DEVUONO:** Grade 2 student is grateful to live in a safe country bursting with fireworks.



**KATHERINE HOBSON:** Takes a turn raising the flag outside her school in King City.

This Grade 2 student certainly appreciates St. Monica.

"My school is good. It's here in Canada," Sherman said.

"There's good food in Canada and we know how to stop arguments."

Industrial pollution plagues many countries in the world.

"But not in Canada," stressed Katherine Hobson, 6.

The King City Public School student keeps an eye on the quality of air and water in King City.

"It's not polluted," she said.

Canada is made up of "nice families", Katherine said.

"The families are Canadian."

It must be noted, the best family in all the land is Katherine's.

"Some countries don't have such nice families. And some countries aren't this peaceful. Nothing happens here. We're safe."

Last year, Tatyana Nakonecznyj, 5, planted a tree at her King Township home to celebrate Canada Day.

"This year, I'm going to play with my Barbie," Tatyana said.

**We should feed the animals and maybe the people. If we had the right kind of tree, we could build a tree house.**

Sam Brown

Sam Brown, a Grade 1 student at the King City school, has some advice for us all.

As soon as we wake up Saturday, people across York Region should "think about feelings and we should ask Canada how she's doing", Sam said.

"We should feed the animals and maybe the people. If we had the right kind of tree, we could build a tree house. It would have to be the tree that's on the flag. They picked the tree because trees help us breathe."

Emily Lex's daddy has created a unique gift to mark Canada's special day.

"My dad built a pretend door," said Emily.

On a national scale, the Grade 1 St. Patrick Catholic School student hopes all Canadians stay out of harm's way.

"I don't want anyone to get hurt," Emily said.

"And I don't want any shooting any place."

Lucas Mascarenhas, 7, loves Canada and for good reason.

"Canada doesn't have any volcanoes," said this Grade 1 student.

Instead, Lucas did point out that Canada has lots of nice people.

"No one shoots on Canada today or any other day," Lucas said.

**I don't leave Canada. Except to go to Ottawa. That's where they make the money.**

Vincent Spano

Vincent Spano, 6, is a stay-at-home kind of guy. The Grade 1 student at St. Patrick has only been out of Canada once.

"I don't leave Canada. Except to go to Ottawa. That's where they make the money," Vincent said.

Michael Bougeois, a Grade 1 student at Ballantrae Public School, is showing his competitive side on Canada Day.

He's taking part in the spelling bee at the Stouffville Strawberry Festival today.

"I'm also going to stand up straight to welcome Canada a happy birthday. We do that because we're proud."

Michael wants everyone to know he has a maple tree in his back yard at home that he shares with his mom Ann, his dad Bernie and his baby sister Rebecca.

"The maple leaf's on the flag and the maple tree is in my back yard. That's pretty cool," Michael said.



**SHERMAN CHIU:** Appreciates chance to attend a great school and eat good food.



STAFF PHOTO/ROB ALARY

Clara Klages will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Canada's 133rd birthday.

## Centenarian shares birthday with 100

BY NANCY DEVINE  
Special to The Tribune

Clara Klages shares a birthday with Canada. The country is 133. Today, Clara will mark her 100th birthday with 100 of her closest friends and family.

"Her advice was always to keep smiling," said her daughter, Sylvia Limpert, of Richmond Hill.

"She was always known for her smile."

Born on a farm in southwestern Ontario, Clara is the youngest of 16 children. She left the farm in her early teens to work at factories in Kitchener.

Clara has been a resident of the Willows Estate in Aurora since 1992. She loved to play a tune or two for her fellow residents until ill health and diminishing eyesight forced her to give up her two favourite pastimes: music and reading her Bible.

"Church and the Lord have been very important to her," Sylvia said. "And she did her best to make sure her children and grandchildren stayed on the right path."

Today, 93 family members, including 18 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren and a few great-great-grandchildren, along with some longtime friends, will gather at a Richmond Hill church to celebrate Clara's adventure-filled life.

Born at the dawn of the new century, Clara has seen many of the world's major historical events. She was a teenager at the start of the First World War, a young homemaker during the Great Depression and she said goodbye to nephews who served in the Second World War.

In the years following her husband's death in 1965, she visited Israel, Hawaii and, at 88, took a cruise on the Panama Canal. Her last trip, at age 92, was to British Columbia to visit her daughter for a winter.

Though she has been plagued by ill health for much of her life, Clara has made the best of each of her days, Sylvia said.

## Canada is 133, but Your EYES are only OVER 40

When the Age Monster comes calling on baby boomers, he gradually and increasingly steals away your ability to read the fine print, because words become **difficult to see up close**. This "40-and-over" condition is called Presbyopia ("Prez-bye-opia").

Fortunately, you have more options than ever before to deal with this problem. **Reading glasses**, whether Full Frames or Franklins (granny glasses) are one option. They work very well, but can be a nuisance to carry around constantly.

For some, **Segmented Spectacle Lenses**, specifically bifocals, trifocals, or occupational lenses with lines work very well. Others dislike the cosmetics of wearing "visible" bifocals.

**Multi-Focal** or bifocals without lines are not only cosmetically appealing but they are more appropriate for computer users, among others, who need near-length distance vision. Occasionally, however, some people cannot adapt due to the blur to the side of these lenses.

A modern option is **Mono-Vision or Multi-Focal Contact Lenses** which provide both distance and near vision as well. These are very good for fitness and sports, for cosmetic wear and for enjoying the convenience of freedom from glasses. Some however, may find it difficult to adapt to the vision or comfort of mono-vision or bifocal contact lenses.

Your Thorough Eye Examination including a Professional Evaluation can ascertain what may be best for you and for all your daily visual requirements.

Dr. H.H. Walji (Hons. BSc, MSc, OD, FIOS) Optometrist 471-EYES (3937), 6633 Highway #7, Markham

Website: [www.DrWalji.com](http://www.DrWalji.com) Email: [DrWalji@DrWalji.com](mailto:DrWalji@DrWalji.com)

