



The Centennial of Canadian Confederation 1867-1967

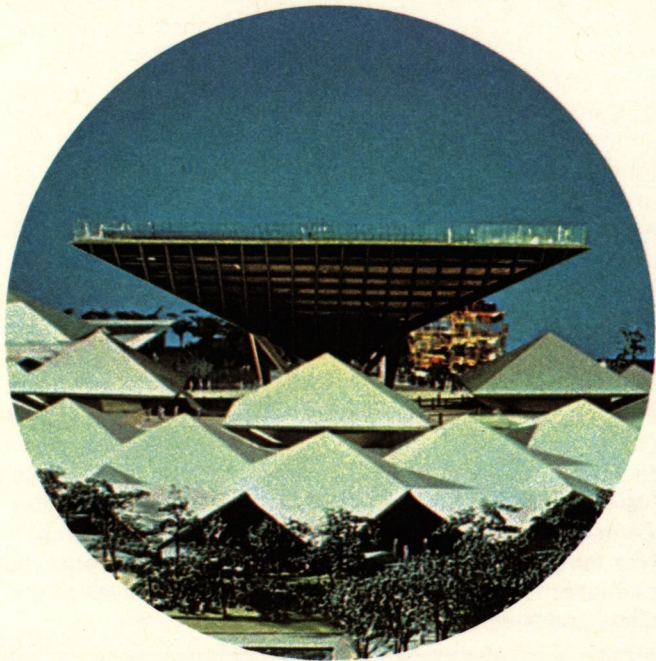


The biggest national birthday celebrations the world has ever seen will be held in Canada in 1967. The events will mark Canada's first 100 years of confederation. Confederation, to Canadians, means the joining together, in 1867, of a small group of provinces and colonies to found one independent country. And, although Canada's history reaches much farther back than that—Newfoundland in the 15th Century, and even earlier Viking explorations, Nova Scotia and Quebec in the early 17th Century—it's to 1867 that Canadians look for their beginnings as a modern Parliamentary state.

Canada's Centennial celebrations, to which visitors are warmly invited, will begin at the stroke of New Year's with the pealing of bells and the lighting of "fires of friendship" across the country. Sound and light will spread from the Atlantic island province of Newfoundland, across more than 5,000 miles—Canada, in area, is second in the world only to the Soviet Union—to the Pacific and the Yukon, seven time zones further west. They'll echo Canada's motto—"from sea unto sea" in a country that grew from untouched wilderness into one of the world's leading trading nations.



Through the year, the celebrations will take on a myriad of forms. One of the greatest events of the year will be Expo '67, the world's fair at Montreal, from April 28th to October 21st. As a site for Expo, engineers have created a new island, in the middle of the St. Lawrence River, which will be accessible, in 1967, by Montreal's glistening new subway. Crack gas turbine trains will bring visitors from Toronto, 350 miles away, at top speeds of 160 miles an hour. In line with the policy of internationally recognized world's fairs, commercialism will be played down at Expo in favor of the broader theme, Man and His World. The most significant pavilions will be national ones—not only Canada's own but those of more than 70 foreign countries. All in all, Expo will be one of the biggest projects Canadians have ever undertaken.



Expo is only one of the events planned for 1967 in Canada. Others range from a canoe race across the wilderness to national tours of the performing arts, "Festival Canada." New buildings are springing up everywhere to mark the Centennial—theatres, auditoriums, libraries, museums. Not temporary buildings to house temporary events, but permanent, modern structures to change the lives of the cities and towns.



To the theatres and auditoriums will come some of the world's great musical and theatrical companies, ranging from the New York Philharmonic to the British National Theatre. As part of "Festival Canada" they'll be presented at low, subsidized prices throughout Canada. As well, all the Canadian groups who have achieved international recognition will be presenting special programs: the Stratford Shakespearean Festival, the National Ballet, Les Feux Follets, Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde—and, of course, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with their spirited musical ride. A spectacular military tattoo, involving 1400 men in period uniforms, will travel across the country. There will be a Centennial flavor to Canadian sports events in 1967, too: the Grey Cup, for the National championship of Canadian football; the Queen's Plate, oldest horse race in North America; the Canadian Open Golf Tournament, now one of the continent's richest, and the opening of the season of the newly expanded National Hockey League. Winnipeg will be the site of the 1967 Pan-American Games, July 22 to August 9. International sports competitions will be held in Canada ranging from power boating, fencing and rowing to mountain climbing and chess.



There is virtually no Canadian city, town or village without a special Centennial project; a new park, a new town square, its own festivities. Parks and campsites everywhere are being prepared with special care for visitors.

A Confederation Train, telling Canada's story in artifacts and displays, will wend its way from coast to coast. Eight Confederation Caravans, each made up of eight huge trailers, will go out into many areas not visited by the Confederation Train. In every sense, Canada's Centennial will be a national celebration, and Canadians are already beginning to feel excited about playing host to each other and to visitors from other countries.



Canadians offer no single national type. Of the 20 million people now living in Canada, nearly three million were born somewhere else—more than a quarter million in Italy alone. They're proud to preserve the cultures they've brought with them. While Canada has two official languages—French and English—the visitor is liable to hear any one of dozens of mother tongues on buses, subways, the street or the prairie.

Canadians live in a variety of climates too. It might be 50 degrees below zero (F) on the rugged Arctic tundra but at the same time flowers bloom on the balmy Pacific Coast.

In Victoria, British Columbia, the annual average temperature is over 50 degrees. The southern tip of Ontario is farther south than the Oregon-California state line and as far south as Rome. In a sense, Canada is many lands, the home of many people. In 1967, they'll all be drawn together by a common spirit of unity. Come and join our birthday celebrations, when the big land will be at its best.





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