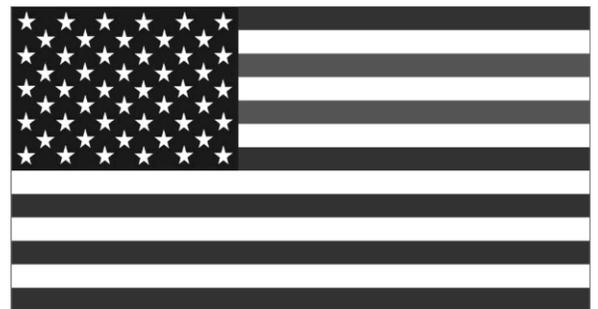# Labour Day
Labour Day

By Ronald F. Wolf

July 22, 1882-The Toronto Trades and Labour Council (formerly the TTA) organized an annual demonstration and parade. Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of New York was invited to speak. Shortly after, McGuire proposed a holiday for workers while he served as secretary of the Central **Labor Union in New York.

In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the day which was named as the "workingmen's holiday".

Thanks to the U.S.A. Congress, the first Monday of September was declared and a bill was passed making this day a holiday for workers in for Canadians and Americans on June 28, 1894.

A few months later (July 23rd) The Canadian Government also granted this day a national holiday.

Now, on the first Monday of September, Canadians and Americans celebrate Labour Day.

*Labour Day is a national holiday, which is shared by Canadians and Americans.

Like most holidays, some people have no idea why they celebrate, most use them as an excuse to party and get the day off from work.

The following is information how, when, where and by whom Labour Day was started.

April 15, 1872-Toronto Trades Assembly (TTA)(some believe it was the original labour body in Canada) started the first North American 'workingman's demonstration'. At least 10,000 and maybe more Torontonians attended a parade which speeches consisting of calling for the end of a law, which stated that trade unions were criminal conspiracies in restraint of trade.

September 3, 1872-A parade in Ottawa which stretched more than one-mile consisting of seven unions stopped at Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonald's home to have a chat.

The Prime Minister was aware of the discontent of workers with the laws which made unions illegal so he made this declaration that his party would "sweep away all such barbarous laws from the statute books".

*Canadian spelling   **American spelling