

Civic Holiday

by Ronald F. Wolf

Hurray! Here comes another long weekend!!!
A day off from work, BBQs and good times for all!
But what are we celebrating, and why?

The first Monday in August is when Canada celebrates a holiday. In different areas the day differs from Province and municipalities. The meaning of this holiday also differs from Provinces and municipalities. Ontario celebrates local individuals or organizations to help put meaning behind this day.

Toronto- Toronto celebrates this day as Simcoe Day. In 1869, Toronto wanted a day of mid-summer recreation. In 1871, the House of Commons in England established a Bank Holiday. Sir John Lubbock said it was ok for the people of Toronto to have their day in the sun.

In 1875 Toronto City Council set aside the first Monday in August as a Civic Holiday. Years later, in 1968, Toronto City Council changed the meaning of Civic Holiday to what it is today- Simcoe Day. Simcoe Day was named after John Graves Simcoe, who was appointed the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada on September 12th, 1791.

In 1980 Burlington celebrates this day as Joseph Brant Day. Brant was a Mohawk Chief who became famous for his treaty talks and loyalty to the British.

1982-The City of Brantford celebrates this day as Founder's Day. The Brantford Heritage Committee suggests to their City Council a name or organization that is to be recognized on that day.

In 1983 Oshawa City Council cheers Colonel R.S.McLaughlin for bringing General Motors to their city.

1996- The City of Ottawa honors Colonel By. John By (1779-1836) constructed the Rideau Canal and Bytown (now Ottawa).

In 1998-Sarnia celebrates Alexander McKenzie, the second Canadian Prime Minister from 1873-1878.

The Town of Cobourg celebrates John Cockburn Day. Cockburn, a founding father of Confederation and represented the riding of Northumberland West in the Legislative Assembly of Canada, 1861-67.

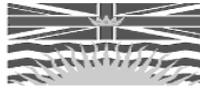
Quebec does not celebrate the first Monday in August.



Nunavut



Alberta



British Columbia



Manitoba



New Brunswick



New Foundland



Yukon



Nova Scotia



P.E.I



Quebec



Saskatchewan



Ontario



North West Territories

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick celebrates this day in similar ways. Nova Scotia celebrates Natal Day (long story about Romans) with family, parades, fireworks and public displays. New Brunswick also has parades, local performers and community parties. Their day is simply called New Brunswick Day.

In Manitoba, employees are generally given the day off, this holiday is not statutory such as Christmas.

British Columbia Day is celebrated in-do I have to say? People here reflect on the beauty of their Province.

Prince Edward Island (P.E.I) also has The Natal Day. This day is not statutory but most are given the day off.

Saskatchewan Day is in-You guessed it. It is a must to celebrate.

Heritage Day is celebrated in Alberta. Here, they celebrate their diverse cultures. Local musicians, singers, dancers are highlighted along with foods from around the world. There are plenty of fun for everyone including children.

Newfoundland and Labrador has something similar but it is celebrated as Regatta Day which is often held on the first Wednesday in August.

The Northwest Territories and Canada's newest Province-Nunavut both have the Civil Holiday.

Finally, the Yukon Territory has their Discovery Day on the third Monday in August.

