



## BECOMING NEIGHBOURS

jam@becomingneighbours.ca

[www.becomingneighbours.ca](http://www.becomingneighbours.ca)



Fridge Notes

July 19, 2013

No. 174



# Celebrating Canada Day



Who is a Canadian? Are there telltale signs of "Canadian - ness"?

Is a Canadian someone

- Who thinks of no one as "them"? Who appreciates cultural diversity?
- Who offers their seat on the TTC to a senior, to a pregnant woman, to a handicapped person?
- Who encourages others to be the best that they can be?
- Who rises up and takes a stand when they see others hurting?
- Who understands the global economy in terms of people, land and water?
- Who recognizes one another as neighbour?
- Whose favourite phrase is "Eh"?
- Who gives thanks to God every day for who they are and for the land of Canada?

Yes, Canada has become a truly strong and free country that can boast of being a cultural mosaic. As a multicultural society, we continue to promote our Canadian identity through art, music and social values. As Canadians, we are privileged to be able to access free, public education (with a 93% literacy rate among Canadians) and we take pride in our publically-funded healthcare system. We enjoy rights such as gender and racial equality. Canadians are extremely fortunate to have an abundance of resources. Unfortunately, not all countries possess all these luxuries. Being people who embrace the motto "sharing is caring" Canadians believe in sharing some of their wealth with those less fortunate. Every year, Canadians also remember those who gave their lives to keep our land glorious and free yet we also know that Canada is threatened in a new way: global warming.

*For all of this, we give thanks to God every day for who we are and for the land of Canada.*

In the words of Wade Davis: "The world in which you were born is just one model of reality.  
OTHER CULTURES ARE NOT FAILED ATTEMPTS AT BEING YOU;  
they are unique manifestations of the human spirit."

Canadians, as you know, are not a particular people from a particular place.

*Canadians are the embodiment of the human spirit.*



# BECOMING NEIGHBOURS

In the spirit of intraculturality, close to two hundred people from eighteen countries gathered June 30, 2013, in High Park for "Celebrating Canada Day."

Dancing to the beat of the African drums with invigorating jazz and soul music interwoven with ballooning, face painting, soccer, the creation of murals topped off with a Canadian picnic helped us all to celebrate Canada Day!

Gratefully received and carrying home bread, each of us said "adieu" more aware of being Neighbour with and for each other.



Squeals of delight from the children as the "balloon architects" delivered up great animals and swords, which led to magnificent, QUIET games! The generosity of those welcoming at the registration desk, serving the food and staying to help clean up made a delightful celebration of Canada Day enjoyed by all. – Lucille Corrigan, CND





# O Canada!

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.



*In gratitude to God for this celebration  
 of the embodiment of the  
 Canadian human spirit.*

*Thank You to those who gathered  
 for your presence and for being Neighbours.*

*Thank You to our Advisory members:  
 Rosemary Albon, IBVM; Annette Collado, XMCJ; Lucille  
 Corrigan, CND; Pat Fitzpatrick, CSSp;  
 Peter McKenna, SCJ; Anne Schenck, CSJ;  
 Noreen Allossery-Walsh, OSU; Adua Zampese, SOS.*



*To Trisha and Ken Vaz  
 Special Thanks!*

