

Editor's notes:

July 2005, Volume 20-11

**Come ye into the summer woods;
There entereth no annoy;
All greenly wave the chestnut leaves,
And the earth is full of joy.**

--Mary Howitt

July was named in 44 BCE for Julius Caesar, the ruler of Rome. He reorganized the calendar to bring it closer in sync with the seasons, adding 67 days to the year 45 BCE and introducing 12 months of 30 and 31 days instead of the original 10. The Senate, grateful for righting the chaotic calendar, named the month after him because it was his birth month.

While students everywhere are cheering the start of their summer vacation, here are a few dates for us to celebrate:

Canada Day, July 1 -- This holiday commemorates the British North America Act which united the Canadian colonies in 1867 and made Canada a British dominion. The name "Dominion Day" was subsequently changed to "Canada Day" in 1982 to downplay Canada's colonial ties to British history.

Perigean Spring Tides, July 1 -- On this day, when the moon is closest to the Earth, tides reach their highest possible level. The word "spring" in the name comes not from the season but from the German word "springen," which means "to leap up."

Anniversary of the founding of Quebec, July 3, 1608 -- Quebec City was founded by French explorer and navigator Samuel Champlain. He led 32 colonists up the St. Lawrence River to start a trading post. "Quebec" comes from the Algonquin Indian word "kebec," meaning "where the river narrows."

American Independence Day, July 4 -- Our neighbours are celebrating their 229th birthday. According to a poll compiled by the American Enterprise Institute, 91 percent of Americans say they are "extremely proud" or "very proud" to be Americans, and 93 percent say they would rather live in the United States than in any place else in the world.

Saint Swithin's Day, July 15 -- St. Swithin, who died on this day in 862, was a bishop in Winchester, England. He is credited with a number of miracles. Old farming lore holds that if it rains on his day, then 40 days of rain will follow. If it is clear, 40 dry days will ensue. Some historians suspect the weather legend began because it rained on many of his early feast days.

Happy Canada Day!

Anniversary of Disneyland's opening, July 17, 1955 -- To all the baby boomers who truly believed in the Magic Kingdom, it's hard to believe that 50 years have passed since America's first theme park opened in Anaheim, California. Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, opened seventeen years later.

Anniversary of British Columbia joining Confederation, July 20, 1871 -- 134 years ago, British Columbia became the sixth Canadian province only with the proviso that it be connected to central Canada by railroad. Fourteen years later, the Canadian Pacific Railroad reached Vancouver, the largest city in the province.

70th Anniversary of paperbacks, July 30 -- In 1935, Allen Lane, founder of Penguin Books, released the first commercially successful paperback books in Britain. While at a train stop, he noticed the only options were magazines and hardback novels and realized the potential for a new book format. Selling for 10 cents, the books were an immediate hit. Three million were sold in the first year.

Does wealth equal happiness?

A number of studies of wealthy individuals and wealthy nations indicate that money, indeed, can't buy happiness. Analyzing 150 studies on wealth and happiness, psychology professors Ed Diener and Martin E.P. Seligman concluded that a rise in wealth isn't accompanied by a rise in life satisfaction. Instead, the researchers noted an increase in depression and distrust. In a survey by PNC Advisors, a financial advisory firm, nearly a third of those with assets over \$10 million said money created more problems than it solved. Conclusion: The secret of true happiness lies in strong social relationships, enjoyable work, and a feeling that life has meaning.

Ode to a Spell checker

This ditty from Fred Pryor, a business writing seminar teacher, reminds us not to rely solely on our computer's spell check to catch errors.

I have a spelling checker
It came with my PC;
It plainly marks for my revue
Mistakes I cannot see.
I've run this poem threw it
I'm sure your pleased too no
It's letter perfect in it's weigh
My checker tolled me sew.

Canada Day

This special day brings to mind how the provinces got their names:

- ◆ **Newfoundland** -- From English King Henry VII's reference to John Cabot's discovery as "New Found Luanda."
- ◆ **Nova Scotia** -- Latin for "New Scotland."
- ◆ **Prince Edward Island** -- Named after the son of King George III of England, who was the commander in chief of British North America at the time.
- ◆ **New Brunswick** -- Named in honour of the reigning monarch, King George III, the Duke of Brunswick.
- ◆ **Quebec** -- From the Algonquin word "kebek," meaning "narrow passage."
- ◆ **Ontario** -- The Huron words "onitary" for "lake" and "io" for beautiful.
- ◆ **Manitoba** -- "Manitou bou" in Cree, meaning "narrows of the Great Spirit."
- ◆ **Saskatchewan** -- Named after the Saskatchewan River, from the Cree "Kisiskatchewanisipi," meaning "swift flowing river."
- ◆ **Alberta** -- Named in honour of Queen Victoria's fourth daughter, Princess Louise Caroline Alberta.
- ◆ **British Columbia** -- Chosen by Queen Victoria to replace the original New Caledonia in the North and Columbia in the South.
- ◆ **Northwest Territories** -- From its location relative to the rest of Canada.
- ◆ **Yukon** -- From the Loucheaux Native word "Yuchoo" for "great river."
- ◆ **Nunavut** -- Named after the Inuit word for "our land."

Measuring Musical Tastes

A survey commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts found that the five most popular musical genres are:

- *Country and western*
- *Rock*
- *Mood and easy listening*
- *Hymns and gospel*
- *Rhythm and blues*

Country and western was the category preferred by 52 percent. Rock was the favourite of 14 percent; hymns and gospel, as well as mood and easy listening, both claimed 9 percent; classical music was a favourite among 6 percent; and jazz among 5 percent. Rock music is the biggest recording seller, with most aficionados between ages 18 and 24. Americans between 65 and 74 prefer big band music.

As a group, African Americans prefer jazz and rhythm and blues. Women tend to like "gentler, more lyrical" music, such as easy listening, show tunes, and opera. Men prefer faster and louder genres like rock, rhythm and blues, and jazz.



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Happy Canada Day from all of us at Helix.