

Gala celebrations on tap for Victoria

"Victoria Day" in July? Yes indeed, July 31. It isn't a birthday party but it is a celebration and we're all invited to join in.

The occasion is the official opening of the new "causeway" technically a bridge with long approaches built across the Westmoreland River to link the two island villages of Hampton and Victoria.

Celebrations begin at 10.30 when Premier Walter Shaw opens the causeway and they continue through to a bingo game in the evening.

Boat races beginning at noon will be a highlight. Mark Robertson, chairman of the Victoria Day committee, predicts, "Fishing boat racing is a graceful and unusual spectacle for tourists to watch," he says.

But perhaps the most memorable event, for the mainland visitor especially, will be the lobster supper, served in a big shed right on the Victoria wharf.

All babies are invited to compete in a contest where cuteness is sure to have a decisive influence on the judges. This part of the show is slated for 2.30.

A CHALLENGE

At 4.00 it will be tug of war time for both men and ladies. According to Mr Robertson this is the event in which "teams of Victoria residents will challenge and subsequently defeat teams from neighboring villages."

Public-spirited local businessmen have donated prizes for the various contests. During the day side attractions such as pony rides will be run.

The "Victoria Day" project is a spontaneous effort on the part of local residents who were pleased with the success of the "Centennial Day" celebrations in their village last August. The village hall was repaired and redecorated with proceeds from that event, and it is hoped that this year the residents can finance another village project, such as the purchase of a furnace for the hall.

FEEL ISOLATED
The residents of beautiful Victoria are indeed pleased about their new transportation link. Cut off as they had been from main highways since an old bridge had been taken down many years ago, they had felt rather isolated.

Now, as Mr Robertson puts it, Victoria is "no longer on the end of a one-way street". It is hoped that with the village more accessible, its already thriving tourist trade will increase.

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Confederation Centre brings Ch'town into cultural world

The Confederation Centre is an architectural surprise in the heart of Charlottetown. It is a dream made tangible, and all Canada is watching what happens there. The theatre has operated only a year and the art gallery less than that and anonymous little Charlottetown is suddenly finding itself culturally significant.

The Centre can name-drop with ease. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth officially opened it last fall and Prime Minister Pearson and all Canada's provincial premiers have strolled through its corridors. Many of the country's greatest stage stars and musicians played there last year and the art gallery has displayed the works of some of her best known artists.

Located next to historic "Province House", the complex—which will go into full operation when the library opens around July 1—is a living monument to the men who founded this country. But it is a historic site with a difference—it bustles.

Mavor Moore and Moncrief Williamson are chiefly to blame for all this activity and for the centre's growing reputation. Moore, who directed the theatre program last summer, persuaded top performers to bumble on appearing here, and filled the roster with names like "The Canadian Opera Company", "Halifax Symphony", "National Ballet Company", "Newport Theatre", Wayne and Shuster, Barba Hamilton, Oscar Peterson, Louis Marshall, Anna Russell and Dave Broadfoot.

Mr. Williamson, curator of the art gallery and museum, has made his section of the complex

a lively, interesting area, with frequently changing exhibits, lots of variety, and related activities such as children's art classes. Some 85,000 visitors toured the gallery last summer.

The Centre, with its dual role as a cultural-historical attraction, has been cited by Minister of Tourist Development, J. David Stewart as a major reason for an 18 per cent increase in tourist inquiries this winter over last winter.

This summer the Centre will run a summer theatre school (July 5 - Aug 14) offering university credits. Inquiries about this are coming in from as far away as Alberta.

But for the tourist, the regularly-rub guided tours and the activities in the gallery and theatre will be the main attraction.

GALLERY SHOWS
Three major exhibitions will be on display in the art gallery this summer, all opening in June and closing Sept. 6.

First to open will be the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Note and Coin Collection. This is a specially arranged showcase collection of coins, banknotes and barter items which opens approximately June 1.

On June 6 the "Poole Collection"—61 items personally selected by Mr. Williamson from the 900 works owned by the late Ernest Poole of Calgary—opens in the east end of the gallery. This includes two unique Kriehoffs—Introduction to the Wigwam and The White Man's Way of Killing a Snake—and paintings by the "Group of Seven" and such artists as David Milne, Paul Peel and John Fox

An impressive list of Canadian painters is included in literature about the Canadian Industries Limited collection, opening June 15. Visitors to this will see the works of such artists as Jacques de Tonnancour, Jean-Paul Lemick, Alfred Pellan, Jean-Paul Riopelle, Goodridge Roberts, Alex Colville, Harold Town, York Wilson, Harold Beament, John Korner, A. J. Casson, Ghitta Caserman, Paul-Emile Borduas, Claude Picher and Leon Bellefleur. In addition to loaning the collection, CIL is donating a complete set of solar slides to the gallery's art reference library.

Other smaller displays and works from the gallery's permanent collection will also be exhibited from time to time.

Art classes for children will move outdoors in the summer months to local parks and the north shore of the Island.

IN REPERTOIRE

Visiting theatre lovers with only a few days to stay here will particularly appreciate the theatre's decision to run its four major productions in repertoire. There will be 14 performances of the new musical "Anne of Green Gables", ten of the satirical "Spring Thaw", ten of "Laugh With Leacock" and six of "Wayne and Shuster" in Charlottetown (1965 edition). "Thaw" will be first to begin its run, and "Wayne and Shuster" joins the program last in mid-August. The man who wants to see all four productions in the shortest possible time should spend Aug. 11-17 in P.E.I. This would enable him to catch the last performances of "Thaw" and "Leacock", the opening night of

"Wayne and Shuster", a matinee and an evening of "Anne" plus a Sunday evening concert by singers Joyce Sullivan and Jack Scott, and, if he were really keen or wanted to set a record of sorts he could see the show in John and Linda Keogh's Puppet Theatre 13 times.

This summer comedians John Wayne and Frank Shuster are joining Moore as co-directors of the festival, whose day-to-day program is as follows:

THEATRE PROGRAM

July 1: Special Dominion Day program, "Salute to Canada."

July 2: MGM's "Golden Overture" film series opens and continues to July 10. This includes such movies as "Rose Marie" and "Girl of the Golden West".

July 6: Puppet theatre, featuring "Howard the Turtle", opens in the children's theatre. This runs to Aug. 21 with shows Sundays and Tuesdays through Fridays at 2.00 and 3.20, and on Saturdays at 11.00, 1.30 and 3.00.

July 11: Folksinger Alan Mills.

July 12: Opening night of "Spring Thaw", starring Dave Broadfoot, Barbara Hamilton, Jack Duffy, Marilyn Stuart, Peter Mews, and others. (This performance sponsored by Charlottetown Hospital Junior League.) Green Room after the show.

July 13: Spring Thaw.

July 14: Opening night of "Laugh With Leacock", starring John Drainie with Dave Broadfoot, Eric House and others. Dramatized readings from the works of Stephen Leacock.

July 15: Laugh With Leacock.

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