

The London and Middlesex

2017

HISTORIAN

Volume 26



Official Journal of
The London and Middlesex Historical Society

The London and Middlesex Historical Society

The London and Middlesex Historical Society was established in 1901 to promote awareness in the local heritage of London and Middlesex County. The aims of the Society are to encourage the research, discussion, presentation and publication of local history topics. The Society is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society and also works with other community culture and heritage organizations.

Awareness of local history is actively promoted through education, public meetings, tours, and demonstrations, and by encouraging young people to learn about and appreciate the past. The Society

provides support and encouragement of historical research and the preservation of materials and memorabilia, relating to the heritage of the region. Working with community partners, the Society encourages the identification and preservation of historically, architecturally and archaeologically valuable buildings, sites and areas.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the Society's objectives and activities. Annual membership includes free admission to meetings, special tours and presentations as well as materials published by the Society.

Heraldic Shield



The London and Middlesex Historical Society's heraldic shield was created in 1992. Unveiled on Canada Day, it was designed by Guy St-Denis with the assistance of Roger Gardiner and rendered by Rob Turner.

The background colour of the outer shield is green, and inspired by the county's forests and farms. The wavy Y-shaped device, a pall or shakefork represents the forks of the Thames River at London.

The combination of alternating silver and blue stripes is a standard heraldic stylization for water. The hour glass on the book which is set in a blue inner shield, is a conceptualization for history. Contrary to popular belief, the seaxes (or Saxon swords) do not illustrate a growing militarism within the Society; rather, they are borrowed from the Middlesex County shield and are frequently used in coats of arms from southern England.

The London and Middlesex Historian
2017
Volume 26

Front cover: Site of Centennial Museum, 1967, London Room Institutional Archives, Photographs, Centennial Museum Construction.

Back cover: Meaning of Confederation, London Room Institutional Archives, Story of Confederation booklet, Canadian National Exhibition, Department of Publicity, 1927.

Published by The London and Middlesex Historical Society
www.londonhistory.org
Copyright© 2017
ISBN 978-0-9866899-7-0

Printed in Canada by
M&T Printing
London, Ontario

Contents

Editorial page 4

Articles

How London, Ontario, Celebrated the Birth of Confederation from 1867 through 1907.....page 6
Marvin L. Simner

Canada's Golden Jubilee Celebrating July 1, 1917 in London, Ontario.....page 22
Jennifer Grainger

London Celebrates Canada's Diamond Jubilee.....page 27
Dan Brock

Celebrating Canada's Centennial - 1967.....page 37
Arthur McClelland

The Story of Confederationpage 49 - 70

Guidelines for Authorspage 71



Editorial

In 2017 London celebrated Canada's 150th anniversary of confederation with Sesquifest. The free festival, hosted by the City of London and London Heritage Council, lasted for five-days from June 29 to July 3. The event took over the downtown core from Richmond to Ridout and King to Carling streets.

The London Multicultural Community Association also provided displays, performers and food from many countries around the globe at Budwiser Gardens. Musical performances included music from a Chinese ensemble, Chinese choir, Hungarian (Transylvania) children's choir, Joyful Noise choir and a Latin American Duo, with dances performed by the Chinese, Colombian, Filipino, Korean, Polish and Ukrainian communities.

Throughout the event, a virtual reality cinema dome, SESQUI, showed a 360 degree virtual reality film *Horizon* that took viewers on a journey across Canada, while over fifty-five musical acts played on various stages and visitors enjoyed an outdoor ice-skating rink. The festival ended on July 1st with an impressive fireworks display.

This issue of the *Historian* is dedicated to Canada's 150th anniversary of confederation. It's interesting to look back and see how London shared in the celebrations over the years. Our tour guides of celebrations past are local historians Dan Brock, Jennifer Grainger, Arthur McClelland and Marvin Simner. We hope you enjoy the journey.

Roxanne Lutz
Editor



How London, Ontario, Celebrated the Birth of Confederation from 1867 through 1907

Marvin L. Simner

While many important announcements have appeared in London's newspapers throughout the course of Canadian history, undeniably one of the most important was published on June 6, 1867, when the *London Free Press* reprinted the following material from a supplement that had appeared on May 21 in the *London (England) Gazette*.

By the Queen, A Proclamation

*Whereas, by an act of Parliament, passed on the twenty-ninth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, in the thirtieth year of our reign, intituled "an Act for the union of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the government thereby, and for the purposes connected therewith," after divers recitals it is enacted that "it shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the advice of her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, to declare, by proclamation, that...on and after the first day of July, 1867, the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shall form and be one dominion under the name of Canada."*¹

During the months that preceded the Proclamation many articles appeared in both the *Free Press* and the *London Daily Advertiser* in anticipation of this event. Whereas both papers were strongly in favor of

the Proclamation, the announcement itself set the stage for considerable and often prolonged debate within the city. This article will review the nature of that debate. The Prelude will focus on the newspaper coverage before and after June 6, 1867, to reveal how informed the citizens of London were about the significance of the Proclamation. The Aftermath will review the many political decisions along with the preparations (or lack thereof) that were made for the celebrations held after 1867 through 1907. Finally, in the Epilogue we will examine several probable causes for these decisions.

Prelude

Although the population of London in 1867 was only around 13,000² both newspapers provided their readers with a considerable amount of local, national and international news. Thus it is not surprising that the citizens of London were well informed about the details of the negotiations taking place in England as well as the overall implications of the Queen's Proclamation. Much of this information was conveyed through printed versions of the speeches made by the Canadian Parliamentarians who were in England at the time and were involved in the negotiations. Perhaps the best summary of the overall future implications of the Proclamation, however, was contained in the words of George-Etienne Cartier on his return from England in May of that year.

...The consummation of Confederation is a measure which has raised Canada from a mere Province into a Nation. Hereafter Canada will comprise not merely the comparatively insignificant Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, but Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Hudson's Bay and British Columbia in addition. When all of the Provinces mentioned in the great scheme have come into the Union as members of the great Confederacy, the Dominion of Canada will extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean...that by this great union of the Provinces, we shall rank as the third commercial power in the world. We shall in this respect stand only behind England and the United States. When we come to think that we have obtained such a result without violence or bloodshed, without political trouble or dissension such as has been witnessed in other countries, we have reason to be proud.³

Although there was no disagreement in the local press with Cartier's overall future evaluation of the proclamation, the initial debate in the London local papers centered largely around the date on which the proclamation was to be enacted as well as the nature of the celebration that would take place on that date.

While the *Free Press* did not disagree with the selection of July 1, the *Daily Advertiser* considered this date a most unfortunate choice.

We cannot help thinking the day and date of the birth of Confederation rather unfortunate. Our

readers will remember how earnestly we recommended the selection of the Queen's Birthday for the natal day of Young Canada. Had this been done we should have had one grand day of annual rejoicing and to all time Confederation would have been associated with the name and memory of Victoria. It cannot be helped or changed now, but we fear it will be found practically impossible to keep two great public holidays with full zest within five weeks of each other.⁴

The *Free Press* approached the matter in a very different way when it issued a rebuttal to an earlier editorial in the *Ottawa Times*, which also advocated holding the celebration on the Queen's Birthday.

Our contemporary thinks that the Queen's Birthday should suffice. Now what would be thought of a man who objected to keep his own birthday because his mother had one? People would think him slightly "spooney," because they would see that in the course of time, in the current of events, his own birthday became of more personal importance than even that of his mother. And when a man celebrates his own birthday, he exhibits an individuality which is respected. It may be that he has not yet left the paternal home, but still he has an individuality...But will the parent frown because he assumes the responsibility of recognizing himself as distinct from his parents? Far from it... such exhibitions of coming manhood are most gratifying; and in the case of Canada, some slight evidence that we appreciate the new condition that is upon us would be especially gratifying to England...⁵

What is interesting about this issue is that it suggests an apparent lack of information on the part of the press concerning the many factors that led to the selection of July 1 as opposed to May 24. To appreciate the rationale behind the choice of July 1 it is important to understand the events that preceded the Queen's Proclamation.

By March, 8, 1867 the British North American Bill had passed the third reading in both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. At this point "*England had finished all that she was to do for the union of British North America...The (Canadian) Delegates could (now) go home. The task of bringing the new Dominion of Canada into existence was now theirs and must be carried out in British America.*"⁶ Given these marching orders, what did the task to be carried out in Canada consist of and how long would it take to complete?

*By the first Dominion Day (July 1, 1867), a large number of important decisions would have to be made. The first senators would have to be chosen, the new lieutenant-governors appointed, and the new provincial governments set up. Of all the tasks, however...the formation of the first federal cabinet was without a doubt the most difficult...It was generally agreed that the cabinet ought not to be any larger than the former Canadian cabinet which was normally composed of twelve ministers...and the first cabinet must represent racial and religious, as well as regional interests...*⁷

On May 16 the following statement appeared in *Free Press*: "*It is rumored that the Queen's Proclamation will fix the date when the constitution of the new Dominion comes into force, about the beginning of July*".⁸ Thus the date of July 1 for the completion of all

of these tasks must have been selected somewhere between March 8 and May 16. Moreover, it is doubtful whether John A. Macdonald, who was largely responsible for the British North American Bill and would become the first Prime Minister of Canada, had any say in this matter "*since he was far away from London when the matter was finally settled.*"⁹ Moreover, according to his diary, Macdonald would have preferred a date at least two weeks after July 1 given the overwhelming nature of the task at hand.¹⁰ Hence, the most that can be said about the possible selection of May 24, is that if this date was even considered in England, it must have been ruled out quite early in the deliberations as simply unworkable.

Unfortunately the rationale for the selection of July 1 does not appear in the minutes of the British Parliament though it might appear in the private correspondence of some members of Parliament, which was a common way of handling certain matters during this time. It could even have been decided during some unrecorded discussions between certain members of Parliament (see chapter four in Martin¹¹). In essence, the actual reasoning behind the choice of this date, at present, is unknown. It is possible, however, that the date may have been selected for at least two reasons.

Since the action to be taken by the British Parliament on July 1 would mean the establishment of new country, for symbolic purposes it might have seemed most appropriate that this action should occur at the start of a new month because it would thereby signify the uplifting nature of the British North American Bill.

Alternatively, by designating July 1 as Canada's "independence day," celebrations held throughout the country on this date could be used to overshadow the normal celebrations held only three days later in the United States

to signify America's Independence Day. Indeed, prior to 1867 it was common for many Canadians in Upper Canada to visit Windsor on July 4 to enjoy the American fireworks in Detroit along with a boat ride on the Detroit River. The Grand Trunk Western Railway often advertised a "Grand Gala Day cheap pleasure excursion" on July 4 from London to Windsor for one dollar return. Passengers could also board at stops in Mount Bridges, Glencoe, Thamesville, and Chatham. Upon arrival in Windsor, the Grand Trunk Western Railway boat was readily available as advertised in a notice that usually appeared in the London papers prior to July 4.

*In order that the Excursionists may enjoy a pleasant time, the Company's splendid Steamer "Union" will be placed at their disposal for the day, and will make a number of trips up and the down the Detroit River free of charge. Excursionists will have an opportunity of witnessing the festivities of the day at Detroit, preparations for which are being made on a magnificent scale. Excursionists desirous of remaining over at Detroit until the following day can return, by any regular passenger train...*¹²

If Canada could mount a celebration of its own "independence day" equivalent to or better than the Independence Day celebrations held in America, it might have been hoped that this would generate a strong degree of patriotism at home and thereby convince many Canadians to view their country as being just as important as the one south of the border. Needless to say, although both of these points are speculative, it could be that reasons similar to these might have been used to justify the selection of the July 1 date.

Aside from this issue over the date, the most pressing matter centered on the best means for launching a celebration of the event. In London the Queen's Proclamation set the stage for a further proclamation that was issued by London's Mayor that June.

*...at a Public Meeting held at City Hall on the 26th of June it was resolved that the day should be kept as a day of General Rejoicing;-- Therefore I, F. Smith, Mayor of the City of London, do hereby request that the Citizens thereof do observe and keep the said 1st day of July next as a Public Holiday by closing all places of business, hoisting flags and other decorations, and doing all in their power to aid and assist in inaugurating the New Dominion.*¹³

How well did London implement the Mayor's proclamation? During the public meeting it was also moved, and unanimously approved, that an immediate special meeting of City Council needed to be called for the purpose of allocating \$400 to "provide the means for the proper celebration of the day of inauguration of the Dominion of Canada."¹⁴ The very next evening City Council met to consider the financial terms in this motion. According to the City Council records,¹⁵ however, the full motion was not placed before Council. Instead only an amended version of the motion appeared in which the request for \$400 was lowered to \$200. Despite this smaller amount only two of the councilors voted in favour of the motion, while four voted against. Thus, the motion was defeated.

Because this defeat meant that the first Dominion Day celebration would be launched without any financial support, a second motion was then placed before Council. This time it was requested that the committee responsible

for the Queen's Birthday Celebration, which had been held on May 24, be requested "to expend any remaining funds from that celebration toward any incidental expenses that might be incurred during the July 1st celebrations." Unfortunately, that motion too was defeated and the minutes contained no mention of the debate that led to the defeat of both motions.¹⁶ Nevertheless, it is quite clear from the council minutes that the city refused to allocate any funds whatsoever in support of the first Dominion Day celebration!

Without funds it is not surprising that the celebration to be held on July 1, 1867, was expected to be extremely meager as summarized in the following words by the *Advertiser*: "The preparations appear to be going on rather languidly, and we doubt if Dominion Day will be up to the mark of an average Queen's Birthday."¹⁷ Indeed the *Advertiser's* prediction proved to be quite correct as shown in their coverage of both celebrations.

The Queen's Birthday on May 24 was a splendid affair that began at 9:00 a.m. and ended some twelve hours later. Every preparation that could be (made) has been made by the Committee of Arrangements for the gratification of sight-seers generally. In London, throughout the day...a continuous chain of amusements will be afforded. At the start of the day a game of Shinty¹⁸ was played on the Cricket Field. At 11:00 a.m. a grand military review then took place which involved Her Majesty's 53rd and 60th Regiments, Royal Artillery, and the Volunteers. The military review was followed that afternoon by more than 20 athletic events (e.g., running high jump, standing high jump, fireman's foot race, three legged race, 100

yard race over six hurdles, wheelbarrow race etc.). The winners of each race were awarded 1st or 2nd class monetary prizes. The day finally ended with a Torchlight Procession mounted by the Fire Brigade that began at 8:00 p.m.¹⁹

In sharp contrast to this all day affair that took place on the Queen's Birthday, on July 1 there was only a single game of Shinty in the morning followed by a military review that ended around noon. Because there were no further activities, the *Free Press* summarized the day in following manner.

Our citizens generally, we presume, will seek some more congenial climate to spend the 1st of July – Dominion Day—than the limits of the "Forest City," and we propose informing them of the many places in the neighborhood of doing so. It is to be regretted, however, that no fitting celebration will be made here, but "what's done can't be undone," or vice versa, and consequently it's of very little use to harp upon this matter. The various railway companies offer tempting inducements to excursionists and pleasure-seekers, and we have no doubt but large numbers will avail themselves of the opportunity.²⁰

Indeed, several days later the paper reported the numbers that left the city on July 1: "We understand that 1,000 were carried over the Great Western Railway to Hamilton...800 by the same railway to Strathroy, and not less than 4,000 to Port Stanley."²¹

Aftermath

The presence of an elaborate celebration on the Queen's Birthday in 1867 coupled with the relative absence of any real celebration on the first Dominion Day apparently set the stage for a similar series of events that characterized London over the next several decades as the following material illustrates. For instance, on June 22, 1869 Council received a report with two recommendations: first, according to a resolution passed at a meeting of the ratepayers in City Hall on Saturday, June 19, "*Council should grant a sum of money (\$200) for the purpose of mounting a celebration on Dominion Day;*" second, "*the mayor should proclaim a half holiday to celebrate Dominion Day.*"²²

In response to these recommendations "*Alderman McBride moved, seconded by Alderman Christie that the first clause be struck out and that the second clause be adopted.*" The motion was carried. Thus, although the day would be officially recognized, once again no funds would be allocated in support of a celebration. Then on June 28 Council received a petition signed by "*Robert Reed and 131 others relative to a grant for Dominion Day.*" Although Council's minutes state that the petition was received, apparently it was not acted upon because it was not mentioned again and the *Advertiser*²³ noted that "*The board of Alderman...have declined to appropriate any sum of money for fire-crackers and sky-rockets (for the Dominion Day celebrations).*" In essence, there was no celebration of Dominion Day that year in London as reported the next day in the *Advertiser*.

...by noon of yesterday the city was almost entirely deserted ...Thousands went, as usual to the Port, and thousands more spread north, south, east and west, as

*their fancy guided them, all bent on enjoyment, for the day, the city was to great extent depopulated. The few who remained for the most part sought amusement in witnessing the cricket match which was...between the Paris and London clubs.*²⁴

In contrast, the Queen's Birthday that year was celebrated with considerable pomp and ceremony.

Business was entirely suspended, over the hotels, public buildings and many private residences, England's blood red banner floated in the breeze; old and young, male and female, dressed in their best, thronged the streets, moving in the direction of the attractions of the day, and things generally were a thoroughly holiday aspect.

Shortly before 12 noon the Volunteer Brigade consisting of Lt-Col. Shanly's field battery, 4 guns, and the 7th Light Infantry, Lt. Col. Lewis, seven companies, appeared on the ground (in front of Hellmuth College)...a feu de joie was fired, and a royal salute was given, followed by three cheers for the Queen...On the way back to the Drill Shed, a company of the Infantry was sent on in advance, deployed as skirmishers...the skirmishers halted, having sighted the imaginary enemy; the artillery and infantry were then brought into position...here, after a brisk infantry fire and a few rounds from the artillery, the enemy was routed. The line of march for the Shed was then resumed, and the review closed.

*(That afternoon in the cricket field) games of base ball and cricket were in progress...the base ball game lasted around five hours. At night the city was illuminated with bonfires. Every street had its blazing pile around which the boys of the neighborhood congregated, firing off crackers, squibs, torpedoes and all such holiday requisites.*²⁵

In 1870 Council once again refused to grant any funds in support of the Dominion Day celebrations. In commenting on this action the *Advertiser* said the following:

*The city has tacitly refused to aid in a public celebration, such as the Fire Brigade, (which was recommended for support by Council) and consequently the diversions of the day are left entirely to private enterprise.*²⁶

The *Free Press* was equally critical of this action taken by Council.

*This is Dominion Day—which of course everybody knows. It will be a public holiday---the absence of the Mayor’s proclamation to that effect notwithstanding. There will be no public celebration in the city of a national character, no military parade, no fireworks, or anything of that kind, though such a display would be agreeable to many.*²⁷

It is also important to mention that this lack of interest in Dominion Day did not cease in 1870 but continued for many years to come as illustrated in the celebrations of such key events as the 20th, 30th, and 40th anniversaries of Confederation which took place in 1887, 1897, and 1907, respectively.

These anniversary dates are particularly important because Dominion Day was designated a statutory holiday by the Federal Government in 1879. Therefore we should expect to find that Dominion Day would take precedence over, or at least receive equal treatment to, the Queen’s Birthday on all of these occasions. Unfortunately, this was not the case!

Eighteen eighty-seven was a unique year not only for the celebration of Confederation, but also for the Monarchy because it marked the Queen’s Golden Jubilee. It was also important in the history of London because 1887 marked the entry into the city of the Canadian Pacific and the Michigan Central Railways which, together with the Grand Trunk Railway, made London an extremely important commercial rail hub in Southwestern Ontario. In fact, the *Advertiser* even claimed in a headline that “*Its Position as a Railway Center (is) Not Equaled by Any City in Canada.*”²⁸ Although the Dominion Day celebration that year would be held on July 1, it was decided to forego the Queen’s Birthday on May 24 and instead combine the Queen’s Golden Jubilee with the entry of the railways into London in a single celebration. Both of these celebrations were scheduled to take place over a two day period starting on Monday, June 20, with the most important day being Monday in keeping with the Jubilee festivities which were held in England. Contrary to what might be assumed, however, the major focus of the celebration on May 24 was not on the Queen. Instead, it was on the promotion of the city as the “*mercantile, manufacturing and banking center of Western Ontario.*”

To ensure that a large number of potential consumers would visit the city that day arrangements were made with the neighboring towns of St. Marys, St. Thomas, Brantford and Strathroy to forgo any celebrations of their own on Monday so that

their citizens “*will all come to London.*”²⁹ Also to ensure visitors, City Council further arranged special excursion trains with reduced fares that would transport people not only from the surrounding towns but from even more distant locations such as Sarnia, Windsor, Hamilton, and Toronto. It was estimated that approximately 3,000 people arrived in London on the Monday.³⁰

To coincide with the arrival of the trains, at one o'clock that Monday the city sponsored a “*Grand Trades Procession and Parade*” hailed in the *Advertiser* as “*An Imposing Industrial Pageant*”³¹ that started on Dundas Street between Market Lane and Richmond Street, then went south on Richmond and through all of the major downtown streets of London. The parade was about two miles in length and was headed by the City Police force, Fire Brigade, and the 7th Fusillers Band.³² To highlight all of the important commercial features that the city had to offer, the parade contained around 200 teams of horse drawn wagons with displays by all of the professions, colleges, trades, shops, and manufactures in London. After the parade many of the stores and shops were open for visitors and the *Advertiser* produced a special “railway edition” of the paper that featured ads from all of London’s major business and manufactures. For the remainder of the day, the visitors were invited to attend a series of athletic games with monetary prizes provided by the city awarded to the winners. In the evening starting at 7:30 a Jubilee concert was held in Victoria Park followed by fireworks at 9:30. Because of the importance of the parade to the city, unlike previous years, City Council had agreed to spend nearly \$3,000 on the entertainment and prizes.³³

Given the splendid nature of these events, how did London commemorate the 20th anniversary of Dominion Day which was held eleven days later?

Tomorrow will be the twentieth anniversary of Canadian Confederation...Twenty years have therefore passed under the existing constitutional conditions, and Friday will be Canada’s natal day. The historical and political aspect of the case will doubtless interest a few, but the great mass of people in London and Western Ontario desire to know where they can best be amused, and accordingly the Advertiser notes a few of the events for its army of readers.

For those who do not take advantage of cheap railway rates but remain at home will find the gardens, boulevards, parks and suburban drives as beautiful as ever... The chief item on the programme of amusements for London will undoubtedly be the races on the old Fair Ground track at 2 p.m. under the direction of the London Hunt Club...The London Lacrosse Club will hold their first Canadian Lacrosse Association championship match in Tecumseh Park in the afternoon (and also in the afternoon) the Beavers (baseball team) will play the venerable Maple Leafs of Guelph...³⁴

The *Advertiser* went on to mention the events that were to be held in Ingersoll, Woodstock, Brantford, and Amherstburg. Apparently, there were no musical events, no parade, and no commemoration ceremony in London, nor did the London City Council allocate any funds toward the celebration of this day, at least nothing of this nature appeared in either London newspaper.

Clearly, the events on this Dominion Day pale in contrast to the events that took place on the first day of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. What is also important to keep in mind here is that since the Grand Gala Parade had nothing to do with the Queen, it would seem that the parade could as easily have been held on Dominion Day. To complete the story, consider what happened on the 30th and then on the 40th anniversary of Confederation. On July 1, 1897, which was the 30th anniversary, the Dominion Day celebration was actually cancelled as a result of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration that was held on June 22nd.

*Tomorrow is the national holiday – Dominion Day – and the present indications are that it will be blessed with fine weather, after the rain storm of Tuesday. People had their jubilation last week, and as there is no public celebration tomorrow most of them will feel like spending the holiday in a quiet manner out of doors. The very thought suggests Springbank, and it is there that the multitude will undoubtedly go.*³⁵

Then in 1907 the Queen's Birthday (which was renamed Victoria Day/Empire Day due to the Queen's passing in 1901), was celebrated once again in an all-day specular manner.

Not for many a holiday have Londoners had such a bill of attractions to choose from as are presented to them to-day...First in interest will be the military review at Queens Park in the afternoon, when in the march past will be seen the 48th Highlanders from Toronto, 650 strong, the First Hussars, 6th battery Canadian Artillery, K Company Royal Canadian Regiment, (etc.)...The march past

*will be followed by a number of military events, including the trooping of the colors by the Highlanders, an officers' steeple-chase...In the evening there will be a grand tattoo...following this will be a torch drill, highland dancing, lantern drill, bayonet exercises, etc.*³⁶

In sharp contrast to the Victoria Day celebrations, for Dominion Day the *Advertiser* summarized the few events that took place on July 1, 1907 in the following manner.

Baseball, Tecumseh Park – 10:30 a.m., Skating, Princess Roller Rink, tonight, Vaudeville at Springbank, matinee and night, Marathon road race, St. Thomas to Queen's Park, starts at 3 o'clock.

*The above list furnishes a few pointers as to the way in which the holiday may be spent pleasantly by Londoners ...Londoners are making very worthy attempts this summer to keep the citizens at home instead of sending them to other cities to spend their money on holidays.*³⁷

Unfortunately, it seems that these attempts to keep Londoners at home were not very successful.

It is remarkable how many people leave their own country to take a trip to the other side on big Canadian holidays," remarked a local ticket agent this morning. "And especially is this so around Dominion Day. We are as busy as we can be selling tickets to Detroit, Buffalo and other American cities just now and have been for several days.

In all of the local ticket offices the same conditions prevailed, and if one were to judge by the number of tickets being sold one would wonder if there were going to be any Londoners left in the city by Monday..."of course, said one ticket agent "we are glad to get the business, but I can't help wondering just why Canadians would be so particularly anxious to leave Canada on national holidays. It is seldom that the Americans come to this side on July 4 or any other holiday, why our people should run across the line on every opportunity is something I can't understand."³⁸

Epilogue

Why did London favor the Queen's Birthday over Dominion Day throughout the first 40 years of Confederation? Although the reasons are not entirely clear several possible explanations come to mind. With regard to the first explanation, at least until 1870/1871 among the citizens of London, there was good reason to ask whether confederation would be successful and whether it was truly a worthwhile venture. In terms of success, on February, 21, 1868, the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia unanimously approved a resolution "*informing Her Majesty that her loyal people of Nova Scotia do not desire to be in any manner confederated with Canada, and praying Her Majesty to revoke her Proclamation and to cause the British North America Act to be repealed, as far as it affects the Province of Nova Scotia.*"³⁹ Although the resolution failed, this action on the part of one of the founding provinces was a clear sign that the success of confederation might very well be in doubt.

Several years later the *Advertiser* addressed this issue in the following way.

It cannot be said that up to this time that Confederation has proved all (that) our fancy pictured it (to be). Nova Scotia, the South Carolina of Canada, is still dissatisfied. The recent imposition of taxes on bread and fuel is strongly resented in New Brunswick. The Red River difficulty has not yet been settled. Ontario is beginning to see that the chief burden of Union falls on the shoulders of her citizens.

During the year we have heard considerable talk of receiving into the happy fold British Columbia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. The first-named colony does indeed appear anxious for union; but the two latter are apparently more stubborn than ever. No wonder. The affairs of the Dominion have been shamefully mismanaged, Ministers being more intent on advancing their own interests than the interest of the country. Let us hope that another election will free us from the incubus of a weak and corrupt administration."⁴⁰

Despite these early difficulties, however, between the 1870s and the turn of the century there was no longer any doubt that confederation would hold. British Columbia had entered the Dominion in 1871, followed by Prince Edward Island in 1873, the Yukon Territory in 1898, and then Alberta and Saskatchewan joined in 1905. Needless to say, by now the outlook had indeed become hopeful that Canada was on its way toward fulfilling the promises suggested by Cartier on his return from England in 1867 (see page 7). Therefore, it would seem unlikely that

the initial concern over the viability of confederation would continue to cause the lack of appreciation of Dominion Day which was so evident during the anniversary celebrations reviewed above.

With regard to the second explanation, there was considerable fear, also during the early years following Confederation, over the likelihood of Fenian raids on London and the surrounding area. The reason for the fear stemmed from one of the stipulations in the British North American Bill that preceded the Queen's Proclamation. It was agreed to by the Canadian Parliamentarians that there would be a gradual withdrawal of British troops from Canada, including of course, the Garrison from London. Prior to the withdrawal and "*At the height of the Fenian raids in 1866, some 900 British regular soldiers of the 16th Regiment, the 60th Rifles, and a battery of Royal Artillery were stationed at London.*"⁴¹ Needless to say, the implication of the withdrawal meant that London would now be forced to rely largely upon a volunteer Home Guard militia in the event of an attack. The question was whether the militia could be depended upon to defend London if it were attacked. Although Southwestern Ontario was never attacked, reports often appeared in the local press that certainly suggested this possibility. For instance, the following material appeared in the *Free Press* in 1867 and in 1868, respectively.

*...a few days ago, an officer, high in command here (Toronto), was informed by General Barry of the United States forces, that it was his opinion the Fenians intended another raid shortly; and urged the Canadians to crush them at once if they should come over because if they were allowed to remain here he would be unable to keep thousands from following.*⁴²

*The Toronto papers refer to precautions that are being taken in the expectation of the possibility of a Fenian raid, (which were) suggested among other matters, by recent movements among Fenian "Circles" in the States. And it would seem that the precautions (taken) were not local merely, but general. Stores are being overhauled, arms put in order, the roll-calls criticized, and such other steps taken as lead to the supposition that still further measures will be adopted in order to be prepared for any emergency.*⁴³

This concern over the Fenians, however, would have been felt only within a few years after Confederation since the Fenian raids were largely over by 1871. Thus although there may have been some initial misgivings due to the departure of the London Garrison, these misgivings would have been short lived and therefore unlikely to have diminished a desire to celebrate the Dominion Days that took place in the later years following Confederation.

Finally, there is a third explanation which could very well apply from 1867 through 1907 and therefore might be the most promising, namely, that the reluctance to celebrate Dominion Day as a holiday on par with the Queen's Birthday may have suggested to many Londoners that Canada could eventually become a country with an identity separate from England and thereby risk the possibility of severing all ties with the Motherland. To understand the nature of this reluctance it is helpful to consider the demographics of Middlesex County in the late 1800s. According to the 1880-1881 census, the number of immigrants from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales that settled here was

approximately 150,000. The next highest number was only around 8,000 from Germany.⁴⁴ Moreover, those who emigrated from the British Isles to Middlesex did so largely to seek a more financially secure future, rather than to escape persecution, which was the case for those who immigrated to the United States. Thus the ones who settled in this region probably continued to retain a strong sense of commitment to, along with an affection for, the governing features of the land of their birth. Indeed, the impact of the possible loss of this commitment to England was even expressed quite forcefully in the following Dominion Day editorial that appeared in the *London Free Press* on July 1, 1897.

In one of his recent speeches in England, Sir Wilfred Laurier declared that Canada was in reality "a nation," so little did he consider the slender thread which connects us with the Empire. And yet we all know that, however slight that tie may appear, in reality it is of vast value to us. We enjoy the moral protection of Britain, and are left free to work out our own schemes of self-government without let or hindrance, so long as we keep within the limits of the constitution under which we live. Sever that thread, and we have at once to face the responsibilities of an independent power, then our real troubles commence. Pressure from the nation to the south of us would at once be applied to whip us into the American Union; the provinces would be torn with faction; and very soon it would become an impossibility to govern ourselves with impartially and maintain our independence as "a nation." The more the question is examined, the clearer does it appear, that

*our true policy is to stick closely to the vast Empire of which we are proud to form a part.*⁴⁵

The fear expressed in this editorial over the possibility that if independence from England had been achieved, Canada might very well have been absorbed into the "nation to the south of us," was certainly not without merit. In the late 1800s several books appeared advocating the establishment of a bond between the British North American Colonies and the United States, referred to as annexation, which meant forming a relationship between the two countries that would be similar to that which existed between Scotland, Ireland and England. In 1894 James Douglas published a book entitled "Canadian Independence: Annexation & British imperial Federation." Two other extremely important books on the same topic were published around the same time by Goodwin Smith⁴⁶ and Samuel E. Moffett.⁴⁷ The message in each of these texts was the same: Canada would be far better off if it became aligned with the governing structure of the United States than if it remained part of Great Britain.

In 1865 the *St. Catharines Post* and the *Galt Reporter* were both in favor of such an approach⁴⁸ and the thought of annexation was probably also on the minds of many Londoners as seen, for example, in an 1869 ad in the *Advertiser* ("Canada won't be annexed but that don't make any difference to the business at W.D. McGlochlons's jewellery store at seventy-seven Dundas Street"⁴⁹) as well as in comments that appeared in both the *Advertiser* and the *Free Press*. Quoting from the *Toronto Telegraph*, the *Free Press* in 1869 inserted the following words in one of its columns.

...when Parliament next assembles, we venture to predict that a clear majority in both Houses will decide

*that the first of July shall be added to the list of statutory holidays; not for the purpose of celebrating a party triumph, but to mark the epoch in our career when British America took the first step on the road to Independence, and when the hated term “annexation” was forever blotted out of the lexicon of political thinkers.*⁵⁰

The *Advertiser* followed suit with these tongue-in-cheek words: “We hereby issue our editorial proclamation, and invite everybody to observe Dominion Day. We would not exclude even those who mean annexation, when they preach “Independence.”...we trust that each succeeding First of July may find the people of Canada more and more prosperous and thankful, and more and more attached to our country and (its) institutions.”⁵¹

In essence, the activities designed to promote the Queen’s Birthday over Dominion Day from 1867 through 1870 as well as during the anniversary dates in 1887, 1897, and 1907, might very well have been inspired to ensure that thoughts of “independence” needed to be subjugated and that what needed to be emphasized instead was Canada’s devotion to the Monarchy. By default this always meant that the celebration of Dominion Day would necessarily remain a secondary event in relation to all of the celebrations that favored the Monarchy and thus, in the minds of many, Canada would continue to be a devoted part of the British Commonwealth. The words from the first and last stanzas in the following rendition of “The Maple Leaf Forever,” which appeared in the *Advertiser* on July 1, 1907⁵² under the heading “Canada’s National Anthem,” clearly convey this message by emphasizing the profound appreciation that Canada would forever owe to the Crown.

*In days of yore, the hero Wolfe,
Britain’s glory did maintain,
And planted firm Britannia’s flag,
On Canada’s fair domain.
Here may it wave, our boast, our pride,
And joined in love together,
With Lily, Thistle, Shamrock, Rose,
The Maple Leaf forever!*

*Our Merry England’s far-famed land,
May kind Heaven sweetly smile;
God bless Old Scotland evermore,
And Ireland’s Emerald Isle!
Then swell the song, both loud and long,
Till rocks and forest quiver,
God Save our King, and Heaven bless
The Maple Leaf forever!*

End Notes

- ¹ *London Free Press*, June 6, 1867, 2:3.
- ² D. Brock, *Fragments from the Forks*. London, ON: The London and Middlesex Historical Society (p. 400).
- ³ *London Free Press*, May 24, 1867, 2:3.
- ⁴ *London Daily Advertiser*, June 27, 1867, 2:1.
- ⁵ *London Free Press*, May 30, 1867, 2:1.
- ⁶ D. Creighton, *The Road to Confederation*, 1964, Toronto, ON: Macmillan of Canada, p. 430.
- ⁷ D. Creighton, *The Road to Confederation*, 1964, Toronto, ON: Macmillan of Canada, p. 431, 434.
- ⁸ *London Free Press*, May 16, 1867, 2:2.
- ⁹ D. Creighton, *The Road to Confederation*, 1964, Toronto, ON: Macmillan of Canada, p. 431.
- ¹⁰ D. Creighton, *John A. Macdonald: The Young Politician*, 1952, Toronto, ON: The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, p. 466.
- ¹¹ G. Martin, *Britain and the Origins of Canadian Confederation, 1837-67*, London, ENG: MacMillan Press Ltd.
- ¹² *London Free Press*, July 4, 1866, 2:6
- ¹³ *London Free Press*, June 29, 1867, 2:7.
- ¹⁴ *London Free Press*, June 29, 1867, 3:3.
- ¹⁵ London City Council Records, Roll No. 5, Western University Archives.
- ¹⁶ *London Advertiser*, June 27, 1867, 2:1.
- ¹⁷ To understand the reasoning behind Council's decision it is important to consider how a request for \$400 or even \$200 in 1867 year compared with the city's normal expenses. On August 12, 1867 the City Council Minutes reported the following salaries: Chief of Police \$600, City Hall Janitor \$375, Police Sergeant \$349, Individual policemen \$325, City Solicitor \$300. Therefore, despite the importance of the Dominion Day, Council could very well have been reluctant to set aside these sums solely for the purpose of a civic holiday celebration. In short, because the members of Council are elected officials and therefore are responsible to the ratepayers, it is possible that in 1867 when the issue of using public funds in support of a civic holiday arose, Council may not have wished to increase the city's debt.
- ¹⁸ Shinty is a very old, fast moving aerial team game, unique to Scotland and similar to hockey and lacrosse. Each player has a curved stick with a triangular section used to carry a ball and is played with two teams of 12 persons each.
- ¹⁹ *London Free Press*, May 24, 1867, 3:2.
- ²⁰ *London Free Press*, July 1, 1867, 3:2.
- ²¹ *London Free Press*, July 3, 1867, 3:4.
- ²² London City Council Records, Roll No. 5; Western University Archives.
- ²³ *London Daily Advertiser*, June 30, 1869, 2:1.
- ²⁴ *London Daily Advertiser*, July 2, 1869, 2:4.
- ²⁵ *London Daily Advertiser*, May 25, 1869, 2:4.
- ²⁶ *London Daily Advertiser*, June 30, 1870, 2:6.
- ²⁷ *London Free Press*, July 1, 1870, 3:4.
- ²⁸ *London Daily Advertiser*, June 20, 1887, 1:1-2.
- ²⁹ *London Daily Advertiser*, June 18, 1887, 1:1.

- ³⁰*London Daily Advertiser*, June 22, 1887, 1:1.
- ³¹*London Daily Advertiser*, June 21, 1887, 1:1-2.
- ³²*London Daily Advertiser*, June 18, 1887, 1:1.
- ³³*London Daily Advertiser*, June 3, 1887, 6:1.
- ³⁴*London Daily Advertiser*, June 30, 1887, 8:1.
- ³⁵*London Daily Advertiser*, June 30, 1897, 6:5.
- ³⁶*London Free Press*, May 24, 1907, 12:2.
- ³⁷*London Daily Advertiser*, July 1, 1907, 1:3.
- ³⁸*London Daily Advertiser*, June 29, 1907, 1:7.
- ³⁹*British Parliamentary Papers*, 1867-1874, Vol. 27, p. 30.
- ⁴⁰*London Daily Advertiser*, June 30, 1870, 2:3.
- ⁴¹Mombourquette, John. The Fenians are coming! London and the invasion scares of 1865-1866. The London and Middlesex Historian, 1993, Vol. 20, p. 45-65.
- ⁴²*London Free Press*, May 30, 1867, 2:1.
- ⁴³*London Free Press*, May 20, 1868, 2:2.
- ⁴⁴History of the Country of Middlesex, Canada, 1889, reprint (Belleville, On, Mika Studio, 1972), p. 210.
- ⁴⁵*London Free Press*, July 1, 1897, 4:1.
- ⁴⁶Berger, Carl, An Introduction. In Bliss, Michael (Ed). The Social History of Canada, Toronto, ON: The University of Toronto Press, 1971.
- ⁴⁷Bliss, Michael (Ed). The Social History of Canada, Toronto, ON: The University of Toronto Press, 1972.
- ⁴⁸Waite P.B. The Life and Times of Confederation 1864-1867, Toronto, ON: Robin Bass Studio, 2001.
- ⁴⁹*London Daily Advertiser*, June 29, 1869, 1:4
- ⁵⁰*London Free Press*, June 30, 1869, 2:4.
- ⁵¹*London Daily Advertiser*, June 30, 1869, 2:1
- ⁵²*The London Daily Advertiser*, July 1, 1907, 1:1 (Note: the version of The Maple Leaf Forever in this issue of the Advertiser was composed in 1867 by Alexander Muir. The most recent version, no longer considered a national anthem, but instead a patriotic song, contains the following first and last stanzas as sung during the closing ceremony of the 2010 Winter Olympics held in Vancouver.

O, land of blue unending skies,
Mountains strong and sparkling snow,
A scent of freedom in the wind,
O'er the emerald fields below.

Remind us all, our union bound
By ties we cannot sever,
Bright flag revered on every ground,
The Maple Leaf forever!



Canada's Golden Jubilee Celebrating July 1, 1917 in London, Ontario

Jennifer Grainger

One might suppose that the residents of London, Ontario had no heart to celebrate the golden jubilee of Confederation on July 1, 1917. After all, Londoners, like other Canadians, had endured nearly three years of the Great War by that date and nearly every person in the city had been touched by the European conflict in some way.

Certainly the *London Advertiser* saw little reason for Londoners to celebrate. In an editorial on June 30, 1917, the paper declared:

*Canada is at present cumbered with so much serving and with such bitter difficulties as to the manner of serving, so distressed in many ways, that she has hardly time or even a hearty will to celebrate her semi-centennial jubilee.*¹

Despite the war, however – or perhaps because of it - Londoners still celebrated Canada's golden anniversary in a variety of ways.

July 1 was a Sunday that year and neither of London's major newspapers, the *Advertiser* and the *Free Press*, had a Sunday edition. Nevertheless, both newspapers observed Dominion Day with a history lesson on Saturday, June 30. The *Tizer* included an article entitled "London of Fifty Years Ago Would Regard City of Today as a Place Made by Fairies." The anonymous reporter described the London of 1867, when Victoria Park was a barracks site, no "white gloved traffic officer" stood at Dundas and Richmond streets, and the city was almost entirely British in origin,

except for "a flourishing colored community as a foreign element." The article reminded Londoners that old businesses such as E. Leonard & Sons, J. & O. McClary, Thos. McCormick, D. S. Perrin, and Hyman & Dunnett, all in existence in 1867, were still in business 50 years later. Dry goods stores and oil refineries were also described as prominent businesses at the time of Confederation. Nevertheless, the author concluded that in certain ways London was a better city in which to live in 1917 than in 1867. The London of the Confederation period was "a London of less than a third of the present population, a city in which pavements, electric street lights and shop signs, motor trolley cars, motor trucks and automobiles were still fairy tales and fantastic dreams."²

The history lesson provided by the *Free Press* was more general than local. An editorial entitled "Confederation Characters" stated that "the men who framed the Dominion of Canada belong to the immortals" and proceeded to relate how the exploits of such men as Charles Tupper, George Brown, George Cartier, and Sir John A. Macdonald brought about the union of the first four provinces.³

The *Free Press* did manage to provide a Confederation article with a local connection that Saturday, however. The item was a memoir written by an anonymous daughter of Sir John Carling, famous London brewer and politician. The daughter explained how she travelled to Quebec with her parents at the age of seven in 1863, after her father had become receiver-general in the Macdonald-Cartier government. Based on her age in 1863, the daughter must

have been Louisa M. Carling, born 1856 in London. In her article, Louisa describes how she became a “pet” of her father’s political friends and states that “*Sir John Macdonald ...used to play with me nearly every evening. It was the beginning of a lifelong friendship.*”⁵ She also recalled D’Arcy Magee and George Brown, but less well. Apparently they were not such good playmates!

The fiftieth Dominion Day being a Sunday, many Londoners went to church and the sermons to which they listened were summarized in the following day’s newspapers. The sermons expressed the themes of Confederation, war, and a variety of social issues. Since ministers were among the most important authority figures of the day, many parishioners and reporters must have taken their comments to heart. The statements of the ministers were likely to be a reflection of the concerns of many Londoners that summer.

One of the most respected of the city’s clergymen, Bishop David Williams of the Anglican Diocese of Huron, preached that day at St. Paul’s Cathedral.

If there is any failure of the British people in North America it is their failure to multiply,” stated Williams. *“There is a danger of the British being crowded out of this land because they have refused to multiply ... Canada has escaped the sin of some of the states of the United States in the prevalence of divorce to fall into the sin of the limitation of the birth rate.”* The Bishop also worried about immigrants: *“The people who will fill the Dominion will not be Canadians ... in the past 10 years the people who have filled Canada have not been native-born Canadians. Woe to the people who are guilty of this sin.”*⁶

Rev. J. D. Richardson of Empress Avenue Methodist Church told his congregation that he was an Imperialist as well as a Canadian. *“There are, however,”* he said, *“two things which we do not want transferred to this new country of ours – one is the drink custom and the other is a titled, hereditary aristocracy.”*⁷ It seems that Rev. Richardson was a temperance advocate as well as a democrat.

The First Congregational Church minister, Rev. Dr. J. B. Silcox, came out strongly in favour of conscription but urged understanding for the anti-conscription attitude of French Canadians:

*We must learn to be lenient with those whose opinions differ from ours. We must remember that the French were here first. He [sic] loves Canada as much as we do, but he reads French papers, speaks the French language. He has not yet got into the swing of the great world struggle. He does not realize his duty. When he does, he will enter the struggle and that as loyally as any of us.*⁸

The Very Rev. Dean Davis, rector of St. James Anglican Church, mentioned the changing role of women and their contribution to the war effort:

*“Perhaps nothing in modern times has done so much to bring women to the forefront as the war. Everywhere they are turning in to do man’s work to aid in winning the war.”*⁹

Many comments from the clergy reflected the apparent effect of the War upon Canadian nationhood. W. J. Knox of First Presbyterian Church commented in a statement to the *Free Press*:

*In 1867 we were made citizens of a Dominion; to-day we are being made citizens of the world. Through the travail of war we are being born into a larger life, with world-wide interests and responsibilities.*¹⁰

H. H. Bingham of Talbot Street Baptist Church commented:

*We celebrate this 50th anniversary under the cloud of war, but even at this critical hour her brave army has placed laurels of victory upon the brow of Canada.*¹¹

Rev. H. T. Ferguson of Centennial Methodist Church also stated:

*While through the rejoicing there are minor strains of sorrow caused by the war, yet in these days of stress Canada is coming to a national consciousness which might otherwise have taken her years to reach.*¹²

Knox, Bingham and Ferguson's comments may have been fueled by the surge in patriotism experienced after the Canadian victory at Vimy Ridge in April 1917. Nearly three months earlier, on April 10, the front page of the *London Advertiser* announced:

Canadians Clear Foe's Troops From Both Sides of Vimy. Boys From the Dominion Foil Counter-Attack and Hold Safely Ground Won Yesterday.

The article continued:

*"The Canadians, who had one of the hardest bits of the front to contend with, are now in complete occupation of the famous Vimy Ridge, even the eastern Slopes of the ridge having been cleared of Germans. The Canadians also have repulsed German counter-attacks."*¹³

Only one clergyman, the aforementioned

Bishop Williams, mentioned Vimy by name in his sermon on July 1, and only in a list of Canadian victories: "*The Canadians vindicated their strength at Ypres, at Vimy Ridge and at Courcellette,*"¹⁴ he stated. Yet from the comments of the others it appears that Vimy was already being recognized as a nation-building achievement as well as a military victory for Canada.

Another July 1, 1917 event was a lecture given during the evening by Fred Landon at Askin Street Methodist Church. Landon, city librarian since 1916, spoke on the topic "*What Has Confederation Done For Canada.*"¹⁵ He would go on to become director of library services at Western University in 1923 and vice-president of Western in 1946. Unfortunately, his speech does not seem to have been preserved.

London celebrated the golden anniversary of Confederation with a military parade on Monday, July 2. About a mile and a half in length, the parade began at Carling Heights military camp at 9:30 a.m. While many military personnel were overseas, a small number remained at Carling. They were joined by militia, other detachments, and men returned from overseas. The parade consisted of: District Staff; the Band of the 1st Hussars; Brigade Staff; Service Company, Canadian Engineers; Composite Unit, Central Training Depot; No. 1 Special Service Company; Canadian Army Service Corps; the pipe band of the A.M.C.; Army Medical Training Depot No. 1; No. 1 Detachment, Canadian Ordnance Corps; Camp Sub-Staff.¹⁶

At the corner of Adelaide Street and Princess Avenue the 7th Reserve Battalion joined the parade and a detachment of returned soldiers joined at Waterloo and Dundas Streets. The parade marched west along Dundas, north on Richmond and along Dufferin, entering Victoria Park from the east. Upon arrival in the

park, the troops were inspected by Col. L. W. Shannon, commanding district officer. The South African war soldiers' monument was decorated by the Women's Canadian Club, I.O.D.E., and other women's organizations in honour of London men who had fallen. Two of London's great men, Sir George Gibbons and Sir Adam Beck, delivered addresses about Confederation, Sir George speaking about the first Dominion Day that was celebrated on that very spot when it was the military barracks. Finally, Canon L. Norman Tucker, who was a small boy at the time of Confederation but could remember the day well, addressed the crowd and cried "*Who is not proud to be called a Canadian today?*" The throng applauded.¹⁷

While large crowds lined the parade route and attended the ceremony at the war memorial, some Londoners chose to spend the 50th anniversary of Confederation simply enjoying themselves. As many as 4,000¹⁸ or 5,000¹⁹ people were estimated to have gone to Springbank Park that day, either carried by the London Street Railway or by automobile. At the park, revelers held picnics on the lawn, fished in the river, and boated on the Thames.²⁰

But July 2 was a hot, sunny day with a steady cool breeze and to many Londoners that was perfect beach weather. Vast quantities of city folks chose to skip the military parade and head for Port Stanley. Initially, the London & Port Stanley (L&PS) Railroad and the Traction Line carried "*numbers so great that none would attempt an estimate.*"²¹ It was eventually determined, however, that 20,000²² or 25,000²³ people rode the L&PS that day, making it the busiest day in the railroad's history. Thousands of motorists also drove to "the Port" for the occasion. While the water was disappointingly cold and rough and only a few hundred bathing suits were issued at the new \$30,000 L&PS bathhouse, the cafeteria associated with the building served hundreds of meals, ran out of provisions, and closed its doors in early afternoon.²⁴

So despite the editorial assumption that Londoners, like other Canadians, had not the "hearty will" to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Confederation, city residents did indeed observe the occasion. Many attended the military parade or the celebrations in Victoria Park, in keeping with the war-like spirit of the time. Many attended church on Sunday and listened to a variety of warnings and speculations about Canada's future. And thousands appear to have decided to forget about politics and conflict for a few hours and enjoy themselves outside of town.

Endnotes

1. *The London Advertiser*, June 30, 1917, p. 6.
2. *Ibid.* p. 1.
3. *The London Free Press*, June 30, 1917, p. 4.
4. DeKay, George P. *Carling, Beverley, Gray, Hildred, West, Mason and their descendants: Pioneer Families of London Township, Middlesex County, Ontario*, 1976, p. 82. Louisa died unmarried in 1937 and is buried in the Carling plot at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.
5. *The London Free Press*, June 30, 1917, p. 4.
6. *The London Free Press*, July 2, 1917, p. 2.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 3.
8. *Ibid.*
9. *Ibid.*
10. *Ibid.* June 30, 1917 p. 2.
11. *Ibid.*
12. *Ibid.*
13. *The London Advertiser*, April 10, 1917, p. 1.
14. *The London Free Press*, July 2, 1917, p. 2.
15. *Ibid.*, June 30, 1917, p.
16. *The London Advertiser*, June 30, 1917 p. 3.
17. *The London Free Press*, July 3, p. 12.
18. *Ibid.*, p. 3.
21. *The London Advertiser*, July 3, 1917 p. 7.
22. *Ibid.*
23. *The London Free Press*, July 3, 1917, p. 3.
24. *The London Advertiser*, July 3, 1917, p. 7.

TO-DAY LONDON CELEBRATES CANADA'S 60TH BIRTHDAY!

CAN YOU FIND THE FATHER OF CONFEDERATION ON THE GROUNDS



See if you can find the Father of Confederation.

He is a well-known London citizen. If you can, you win a number of valuable prizes donated by London merchants. When you think you have found him, address him in the following manner: "Pardon me, you are the Father of Confederation," and, at the same time, present a copy of the program. If you are correct, he will present you with a card, replying, "Yes, and I hope you are a true son (or daughter) of mine."

OFFICIAL PROGRAM LONDON'S CELEBRATION OF CONFEDERATION AT SPRINGBANK PARK

10:30 a.m.—Girls' Soft Ball Games. Broomfield Tournament.
Children's Events as follows:
 1. Girls under 6—25 yards.
 2. Boys " 6—25 " "
 3. Girls " 6—50 " "
 4. Boys " 6—50 " "
 5. Girls " 11—50 " "
 6. Boys " 11—50 " "
 7. Girls " 14—80 " "
 8. Boys " 14—75 " "
 9. Girls " 14—75 " "
 10. Boys " 14—100 " "
 11. Boys' Sack Race.
 12. Girls' Sack Race.
 13. Mixed Three-Legged Race (girl and boy).
 14. Boys' Tying the Baskets.
 15. Girls' Ball Throwing.
 16. Mixed Wheelbarrow Race (girl and boy).
 17. Mixed Hoop and Stone Race.
 18. Flag Race (boys).
 19. Flag Race (girls).
 20. Catch the Greasy Pig.

PATRIOTIC HOUS—SPRINGBANK PARK
1:45 p.m.—Selections by the Royal Canadian Regiment Band—of which every Londoner has reason to be proud.
 Lieut. I. K. Harrison, Director.
 Community Singing—"O Canada."
 Chairman's Address—Arthur B. Ford, President of the Canadian Club.
 Address—His Worship the Mayor—Arthur Mayor Edwin Smith.
 Address—Chairman of the Board of Education, Rev. Roy D. Mead.
 Community Singing—"The Maple Leaf."
 Address—Major Bruce Cresser, C.M.P., God Save the King.
 Royal Salute—36th Field Battery.
 Major G. H. Ellis in command.

The Royal Canadian Regiment Band and the Salvation Army Band Will Render Musical Selections During the Afternoon

2:45 p.m.—Senior Female Girls' Soft Ball.

2:45 p.m.—Tag-of-War.

2:45 p.m.—Horsetoe Tournament.

3:15 p.m.—Relay Races.

Industrial Girls—440 yards. Four girls to a team. Each girl runs 110 yards.

Industrial Men—440 yards. Four men to a team. Each man runs 110 yards.

Other Girls' Relay—440 yards as above.

Other Men's Relay—440 yards as above.

Relay—440 yards, open to Police, Street Railway Men, Postmen and Firemen only. Four men to a team. Each man runs 110 yards.

Tying the Baskets—Two men to a team.

4:15 p.m.—Finals Tag-of-War.

4:30 p.m.—Finals Horsetoe Tournament.

4:30 p.m.—Finals Girls' Soft Ball Tournament.

Note:—Only officials permitted inside the ropes. Fouls to operate in this matter as under that which may be run off specially.

All ticket money and receipts return.

No special shows allowed.

Standard tournament rules govern all events.

There are first, second and third prizes for Children's Events, Horsetoe Tournament and Tag-of-War. First and second prizes for other events.

Prizes to be presented at 6 p.m. to be judged with officials in charge, whose decision will be final.

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING

By the people of London

July 3, 1927

Divine Service VICTORIA PARK

3 P. M.

Addressed by

DR. D. C. MacGREGOR and ARCHDEACON SAGE

Salvation Army Band

No. 1 Corps, under Capt. Wood, in attendance

EDWIN SMITH, Acting Mayor, Chairman.

LONDON CELEBRATES CANADA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Dan Brock

The First World War left little time to pause and celebrate 50 years of Confederation in the Dominion of Canada. Instead, the country awaited Canada's diamond anniversary which occurred on July 1, 1927.

The "Forest City" in 1927 had a population of 66,000 people. Since the year of Confederation, the city had expanded beyond the two branches of the Thames River on the south and west, Huron Street on the north and Adelaide Street on the east to include the town of London East (1885), the suburb of London South (1890), the village of London West (1898), the suburbs of Pottersburg, Ealing, Knollwood from London Township and Chelsea Green from Westminster Township (1913).¹ At that time, London included 10 square miles or 6,424 acres. It was known for having the head offices of two large insurance companies, the fourth largest banking centre and second largest wholesale distribution centre in Ontario as well as the largest mail distribution centre in Canada.²

January 1927 witnessed the destruction at Queen's Park of the city's second Crystal Palace. It was replaced later in the year by the red-brick Confederation Building. On June 29th, two days before Dominion Day, St. Joseph's Hospital's new four-storey Nurses' Residence was opened. This was followed, a month later with the opening of the Hotel London on what had been known as Federal Square at the intersection of Dundas and Wellington streets. Across from Hotel London, on the north side of Dundas work was progressing on the new City Hall.

Meanwhile, the airplane and what it could do was drawing the attention of Londoners. On July 27th, Alex Beemer and Mildred Kathleen Chantler would become the first London couple to use an airplane for a honeymoon. The air flight portion of their trip was short being only from the Lambeth airfield to east of London where they continued by motor vehicle. The previous May, 25-year-old Charles Lindbergh had made the first successful non-stop transatlantic flight from New York to Paris in his *Spirit of St. Louis*. This led, later in June, to Carling Breweries putting up a \$25,000 prize for a flight from London, Ontario to London, England including providing the plane.



Captain Terry Tully and his wife Anne in front of the ill-fated *Sir John Carling*.



Ultimately, Capt. Terry Tully and Lieut. James Medcalf were the pilots chosen for the flight and the plane was named the *Sir John Carling*. The attempted flight started out early in September, but perished somewhere over the Atlantic along with most of the special air mail stamps the Canadian government issued for the occasion, printed by Lawson & Jones, Ltd. of London.³



Copy of rare proof of London to London air mail

To celebrate the *London Advertiser* put out a Diamond Jubilee edition the Saturday prior to Dominion Day (July 1st). There were articles and photographs pertaining to the upcoming Jubilee and from 1867. There were also reminiscences going back 60 years by “*old timers*.” Of course, many businesses had advertisements relating to the impending event. The *London Free Press* waited until Friday, July 1st to release its anniversary edition.

In Victoria Park, a Confederation flower bed was created by E.E. Graham, superintendent of City parks. The flower bed was placed in the same position as that celebrating London’s centennial the previous year. It was approximately 54 x 14 feet and raised about two feet at the back for better viewing. The bed formed a large Union Jack, some 15 x 8 feet, flanked by two large maple leaves and the years “1867” and “1927” in the centre of the leaves. The red of the Union Jack consisted of begonias, the white of santolinas and the blue of double lobelias. Unfortunately, inclement weather delayed planting until the previous week and the flower bed wasn’t at its best until mid-July.⁴

On June 11th City Council unanimously passed a proclamation for a three-day Diamond Jubilee Celebration to be held on Tuesday, June 21st, Friday, July 1st and Sunday, July 3rd.

The first event was the official visit of Viscount Willingdon, Canada’s Governor General, and his wife. While in London on June 21st, they visited St. Peter’s Seminary, the University of Western Ontario, the London Hunt and Country Club, the Highland Golf Club, Springbank Park, Byron Sanatorium and Victoria Park.⁵

For the second and main day of celebration, Dominion Day in London promised to be a hot one in more ways than one. The weather started off hot and the thermometer kept on climbing until it reached a maximum of 97 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade at 3:00 p.m. daylight savings time. This was a record in London thus far for 1927! While there were no cases of heat exhaustion reported, thousands of Londoners used the bathing facilities at Thames Park, Dexters and other spots provided by the Public Utilities in or near the city and, of course, at Port Stanley.⁶ But there were planned activities for the day as well.

Fred Landon, chief librarian at the University of Western Ontario, was chairman of the local committee for the celebrations. Varied sports programs involving Londoners and others, such as golf, lawn bowling, cricket, softball and baseball and horseshoes, were held at Springbank Park, Thames Park, Queens Park, Elmwood Bowling Club, London Rowing Club, the Huron College Grounds, the London Hunt and Country Club, the Highland Golf Club and by the London Rowing Club, as well as in Port Stanley and St. Thomas, were held. The main centre of attraction, however was Springbank Park. Gerald N. Goodman, chief supervisor of the civic playgrounds, was in charge of the day’s program.

You'll Find Everybody
AT
SPRINGBANK
Amusement Park
Dominion
Day (July 1)
Fireworks
and **Dancing**
AT LONDON'S PLAYGROUND

You will be thrilled by the scintillating display of fireworks, the best we have prepared in years. Rockets, bombs, illuminators, thousands of gold and silver stars—the fireworks event of the season.

Ferris Wheel, Roller Coaster, Box-ball, Trip to Mars, Fun House, Merry-Go-Round, Mystery House, Shooting Gallery, Refreshment Booths. Ample free auto parking space.

Fun and frolic for young and old from dawn till dark.





Map of coast to coast broadcast

At 10:30 a.m., the girls' softball games, horseshoe tournament and races for boys and girls commenced. The races for both children and adults consisted of regular races, relays, sack races and mixed three-legged, wheelbarrow and boot and shoe races. The Royal Canadian Regiment Band held its patriotic hour, beginning at 1:45 p.m., while the Salvation Army Band rendered musical selections throughout the afternoon. At 2:00, speeches were to commence from the stand constructed on the baseball grounds in front of the pavilion. At 2:45 there were the semi-finals of the girls' softball, tug of war contests and the continuation of the horseshoe tournament. The tug of war was the only event not held as there were no entries. On the other hand, *"no single event on the sports program aroused more sustained interest than did the horseshoe tournament which was held on ten pitches within the miniature railway ring."*⁷ In all there were 31 starters in the event, which was begun in the morning and continued until late in the afternoon on the elimination basis." The winner was 15-year-old William Strothers of Sarnia. Another "sport," like tug of war and horseshoes, harking back to 1867 was the greasy pig event. The attempts to catch a 130-pound pig, *"liberally splashed with lard,"* proved to be *"a mirth-provoking event."* The tilting of the bucket, by both boys and men, *"provoked much merriment, as the contestants fell short in their skill to pass the pole through the small hole and escape a ducking."* On the other hand, *"the shower bath"* was no doubt appreciated on such a hot, sweltering day.

The relay races commenced at 3:15. At 4:30 the finals of the horseshoe tournament and the girls' softball began. There was also an opportunity to *"win a number of valuable prizes"* by spotting the *"Father of Confederation"* on the grounds. He was *"a well-known London citizen."* When one thought he/she had found him, one was to address him in the following manner: *"Pardon me, you are the*

Father of Confederation," and at the same time present him with a copy of the official program. If correct, he would present the person with a card and reply, "Yes, and I hope you are a true son (or daughter) of mine." The one to discover the *"Father of Confederation,"* Acting Mayor Edwin Smith, and approach him *"with the question couched in the proper terms and carrying a program in his hand"* was 11-year-old Leonard Clements of 659 Princess Avenue.

Throughout the day there was *"Ample free auto parking space"* and the London Street Railway Company ran cars *"every few minutes"* from the corner of Dundas and Richmond streets. One could even view the park from above in the seaplane *Big Eli*.⁸

Of course, the Springbank Amusement Park, *"across the street from Springbank"* and dating from 1914, was in full operation on this day. Officials and workers of its operators, the Victor Amusement Company, spent the week before getting everything ready. With *"Ample free auto parking space,"* the Park featured a rollercoaster, Ferris wheel, merry-go-round, shooting gallery, mystery house, fun house, Trip to Mars and, at the south end of the Amusement Park, one could play boxball. Refreshment booths were also nearby. Hassan's had a booth west of the gate and another north of the dance hall. Kenney's was just south of the dance hall. At for the dance hall itself, with springs beneath the floor boards, it was promoted as the *"bounciest dance floor in Canada."* In the evening, with *"thousands of lights"* aglow in the Park, Ronnie Hart's Orchestra provided the dance music. The Victor Amusement Company also furnished a *"scintillating display of fireworks."*⁹

The third day officially set aside for the Diamond Jubilee Celebration was Sunday, July 3. This was the day on which the clergy of the *"different denominations throughout*

the City [were] to hold special thanksgiving services in their respective churches” and to render “selected music suitable for the occasion....” The Salvation Army complied by holding “Special jubilee services” at all its citadels.¹⁰

The Dominion Government also had its impact on the city. A Commemorative copper token was minted and distributed throughout the country. Six special brightly coloured jubilee stamps, one being a special delivery stamp, were designed and first made available to the public on Wednesday, June 29th. London’s allotment of 400,000 stamps arrived on Saturday, June 25th and proved to be “extremely popular” on the first day of sale.¹¹



Obverse and reverse sides of the commemorative copper token.



Commemorative stamps, including 20-cent special delivery stamp.

The most ambitious undertaking, however, appears to have been “the most extensive tie-in of radio stations ever attempted in Canada and possibly in the world.” At this time, the radio was still in its infancy. The linking of stations from coast to coast, 19 in all, included London’s CJGC, CNRO from Ottawa as the key station and Marconi beam station CF at Drummondville, Quebec. The latter in turn rebroadcast the program, on short wave-lengths, from Ottawa to Australia and to England, using two transmitters. England, in turn, broadcast to European receiving stations. The Canadian tie-in involved approximately \$3 million worth of equipment, including 21,650 miles of telegraph and telephone wire and 53 repeaters to amplify the sound at approximately 200-mile distances. The initiative required 159 personnel. A test run was made on Sunday, June 26th and reception was “remarkably clear, not only from the local station but also from Toronto and Ottawa.”¹² The broadcast program started at 10:30 a.m., eastern standard time, with music. Later, there were gun salutes, addresses from such dignitaries as the Governor General and Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, choir, bands and a string orchestra. The program ended at about midnight with the playing of “God Save the King.”¹²

The provincial government played a role as well. The Ontario Department of Education sponsored a Confederation essay contest with silver and gold medals presented at Springbank Park, on the afternoon of July 1st, to the local prize-winners.¹³

The preceding is but a snapshot of London in 1927 and how it observed Canada’s Diamond Jubilee.

Endnotes

- ¹ Daniel J. Brock, *Fragments from the Forks: London Ontario's Legacy* (London, ON: The London & Middlesex Historical Society, 2011), 399-401
- ² "Facts About London," *The London Free Press (LFP)*, July 1, 1927, Sec. 3, 15:8
- ³ "Offer \$25,000 Prize For Flight From City To London, England," *London Evening Advertiser (Lon. Adv.)*, July 29, 1927, 2:1-2; Brock, *Fragments*, 216-19
- ⁴ "Confederation Flower Bed Will Be at Its Best July 15," *Lon. Adv.*, June 27, 1927, 1:5-6; "Jubilee Flower Bed At Victoria Park Is Real Gardener's Work of Art," *LFP*, June 27, 1927, 1:6-7
- ⁵ *Lon. Adv.*, June 21, 1927, 1:1-2; 3:7
- ⁶ "Dominion Day Hottest of Year," *LFP*, July 2, 1927, 2:8
- ⁷ The oval track, a little more than a half mile in length, dated back to 1919, its engineer until 1965 being James Kennedy.
Kenneth McTaggart, *Remember When?* (Ken D. McTaggart: London, 2011), 7
- ⁸ "To-Day London Celebrates Canada's 60TH Birthday," *LFP*, Section 3, 9, bottom; "Sports At Springbank Celebration Feature," *Lon. Adv.*, July 2, 1927, 15:5-7
- ⁹ McTaggart, *Remember When?*, 7; *Lon. Adv.*, July 29, 1927, 7, various advertisements; "Jubilee Celebration At Springbank To Eclipse Anything Yet Held At Great Amusement Centre," and various advertisements, *LFP*, June 30, 1927, 5.
- ¹⁰ "Proclamation Diamond Jubilee Celebration," *Lon. Adv.*, June 15, 1927, section 1, 21:7-8. As Saturday had been declared an official holiday, the *Free Press* only put out one edition on July 2nd.
- ¹¹ *Lon. Adv.*, June 28, 1927, c. 7; "Confederation Jubilee Stamps Issued To-Day and "Jubilee Stamps In Good Demand," *LFP*, June 29, 1927, 2:2-6
- ¹² "Broadcasting Canada's Confederation Jubilee" and "Jubilee Radio Plan Gets Fans Excited," *Lon. Adv.*, June 27, 1927, 1:5-7
- ¹³ "Broadcast Program For Dominion Day," *LFP*, June 30, 1927, 1:4-5



Site of Centennial Museum, 1967

Celebrating Canada's Centennial - 1967

Arthur McClelland

Fifty years ago, London celebrated Canada's Centennial. A committee to celebrate Canada's centennial was first mentioned by City Clerk Reg. H. Cooper at a city council meeting on February 19th, 1962. Consequently, the Board of Control recommended that Mayor Frank G. Stronach, Alderman John A. Irvine and Controller Margaret A. Fullerton be appointed as the Centennial Committee. The first report of the Centennial Committee composed of Mayor Stronach, Controller Bentley I. Baldwin, Alderman Irvine and Stephen J. Hervoly, was presented on May 3rd, 1963. The committee recommended that the city clerk be authorized to gather information about federal and provincial grants to build a concert hall and auditorium at a cost of \$3 million as a centennial project. The following four organizations had already expressed an interest in the city's centennial celebrations and were invited to a meeting of the committee to present their centennial projects – Kiwanis Club of London, London Public Library Board, Military Historical Society and the University Women's Club. Among the many suggestions for centennial projects were the following – a museum by the London Public Library Board and Military Historical Society, a Confederation park at the Forks of the Thames by the Garden Club of London, a residence for handicapped adults, senior citizens' home, development of Broughdale lands, planting of maple trees by the London Garden Club and a cenotaph by Knights of Columbus. Centennial projects had to be approved provincially by November 9th, 1964. On June 22, 1965, the Centennial Celebrations Committee recommended that the city of London plan a mammoth inter-faith religious

celebration to include all churches within the city beginning on Sunday June 25th and ending on Saturday July 1st, 1967. It was suggested on November 18th, 1965 that the London Historical Society be requested to submit suggestions to the Centennial Celebration Committee with respect to the possibility of constructing a fort within the city with French and British colonials, fur traders, Indians, etc. On February 1st, 1966, the Centennial Celebration Committee accepted the offer of the University Women's Club to handle the preparation of an official 1967 calendar to be known as the "London Journal" with pictures of London buildings with historical significance, giving special emphasis to the Victorian architecture which is so prevalent in the city. The photographs were taken by William Lehman of 1057 Brough Street. On May 3rd, 1966, the Centennial Celebration Committee asked that the Board of Control extend an invitation to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip to visit London since they would already be visiting Expo '67 in Montreal. On October 6th, 1966, the Centennial Celebration Committee referred the preparation of a factual history of London booklet by William Corfield to the Historical Society.

Centennial Hall/Square

On September 15th, 1964, the Committee recommended the construction of a Centennial Square including a convention centre and civic auditorium located near city-owned land bounded by Dufferin Avenue, Princess Avenue and Wellington Street and that this be approved as the Centennial project for the City of London. Centennial Square would include an art gallery and underground parking facilities for 600 cars.

On November 2nd, 1964, City Council approved the construction of a \$1,450,000 Centennial Centre. The Board of Control appointed Philip Carter Johnson as the architect on November 16th. By-Law No. A. - 3612-246 (Bill # 260) authorized the construction of the Convention Centre and Civic Auditorium. On June 14th, 1965, a portion of Princess Avenue was closed east of Wellington Street and all the buildings except for Central Secondary School, in the square bounded by Dufferin Avenue, Princess Avenue, Waterloo and Wellington streets were to be vacated by August 31st, 1965. Houses on Princess Avenue (294, 296 and 298) were expropriated and demolished for the construction which was to be completed by March 1st, 1967. Additional houses were demolished (284, 288 and 294 Dufferin Avenue; 291 Princess Avenue and 500, 508, 512 and 516 Wellington Street).

On September 28th, 1965, the Centennial Celebration Committee recommended inviting Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians to entertain at the Convention Centre on Friday June 30th, 1967 but Guy was unable to attend. The clearing for the convention site started on October 18, 1965. On November 9th, 1965, the Committee recommended a civic dinner be held on June 21st, 1967 before the official opening of the Convention Centre and Civic Auditorium and that Hon. John Robarts, Premier of Ontario, be invited to attend the opening. That same day the City received news that it would be assured of \$327,176 in federal-provincial grants for the construction of its concert/convention hall.

On March 6th, 1966, the Centennial Celebration Committee accepted the offer of the London Garden Club to decorate the Convention Centre and Civic Auditorium for the opening. On April 9th, 1966, the Board of Control opened the following tenders which were received for the construction of the

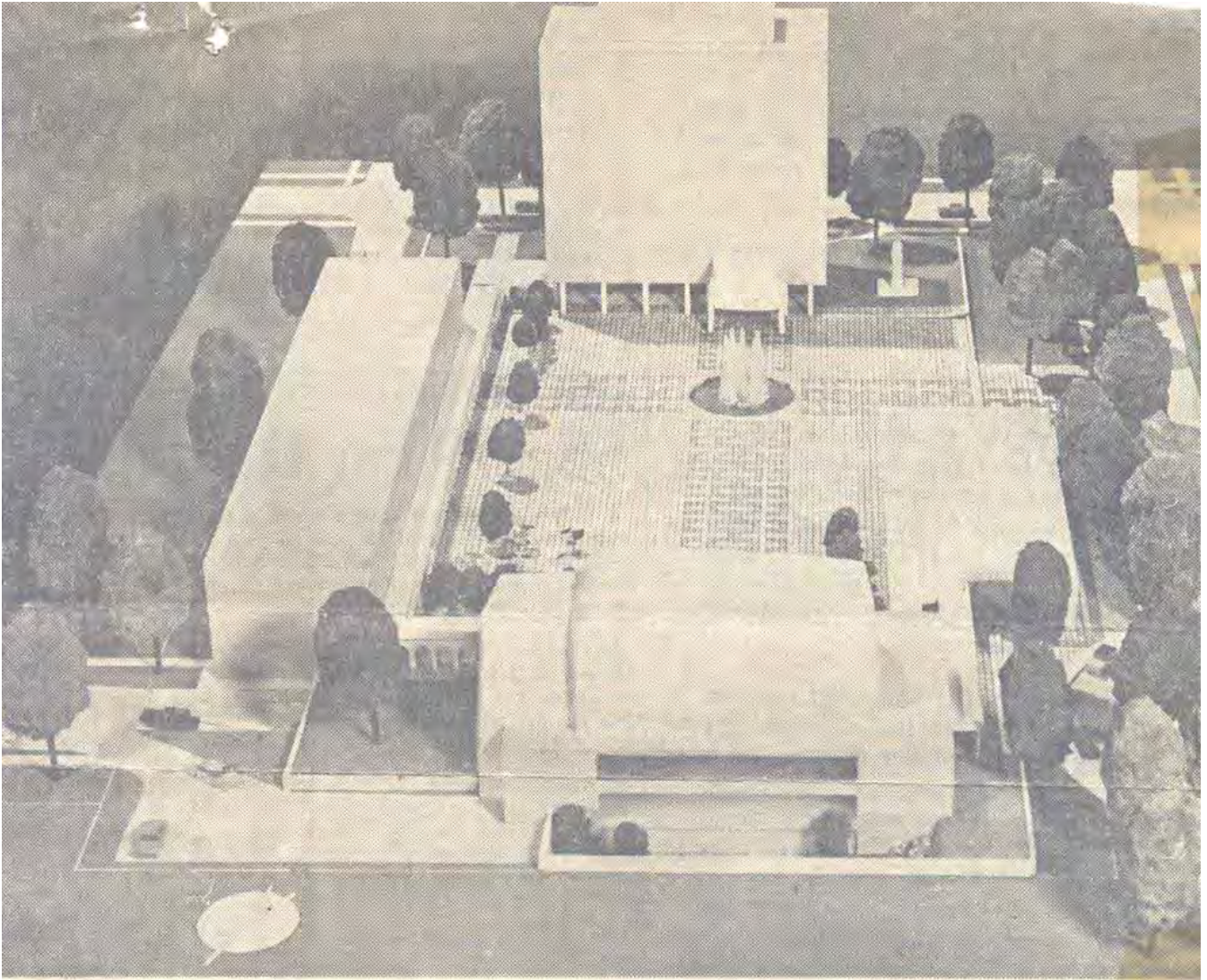
Centennial Convention Centre and Civic Auditorium:

Ellis Don Limited - \$1,073, 719.00

W.A. McDougall Limited - \$1,190,000.00.

The construction bid was awarded to Ellis-Don on April 25th, 1966. The Centennial Hall project officially started with the sod-turning by Mayor Stronach and Controller Margaret Fullerton on May 9th, 1966. The Board of Control also accepted the gift of a cornerstone and a copper archive box through the generosity of Geard Cut Stone Limited, Bennett & Wright Limited and Ellis-Don Limited. On February 22nd, 1967, the Board of Control recommended that the new civic centre be called Centennial Hall. Among the suggested names were Centennial Centre, Forest City Centennial Centre, Georgina Auditorium, Governor Simcoe Hall, Grant's Tomb, John Wilson Auditorium, London Athenaeum and White Elephant of 67. Some suggested it should be named after Sir John Carling or Peter McGregor.

The cornerstone was officially laid by Controller Margaret A. Fullerton on Friday May 19th, 1967 at 10:00 a.m. Within the cornerstone were the following items – three small Confederation flags, a set of coins, a complete series of coloured postcards of local views of the city of London donated by Victor Aziz Photography Ltd., a copy of the *London Journal 1967*, a city map, a tape of CKSL broadcast, Centennial Hall stationery, front page of Section 4, *London Free Press*, May 18th, 1967 edition and the Municipal Yearbook for 1966. A scale model of Centennial Hall was used for promotional purposes. Centennial flagstones were available for \$10 to be engraved with a person's initials and laid in the Centennial Square (13,330 were available for sale).



Centennial Hall Model, 1965



Lobby



Banquet Hall



Banquet Hall Sunken Garden

CENTENNIAL HALL FACILITIES

- Auditorium** - seating capacity 1854
- open stage
- Banquet Hall** - meetings up to 1000
- catering capacity 900
- dinner dance, cabaret style, 550 maximum
- Lounge** - reception area and bar service
- Additional Meeting Rooms**
- Parking** - Underground, attached, south side, 430 cars
- Ground level, 300 cars
- Accommodation** - within 2 blocks of major accommodation and shopping areas
- For Information** - K. J. Burgess, Manager
- A. Lawson, Asst. Manager
- Telephone 672-1967
- Location** - 550 WELLINGTON STREET
- Opposite Victoria Park
- Easy access to Highways 2, 4, 22 and 401



Lounge and Reception Area

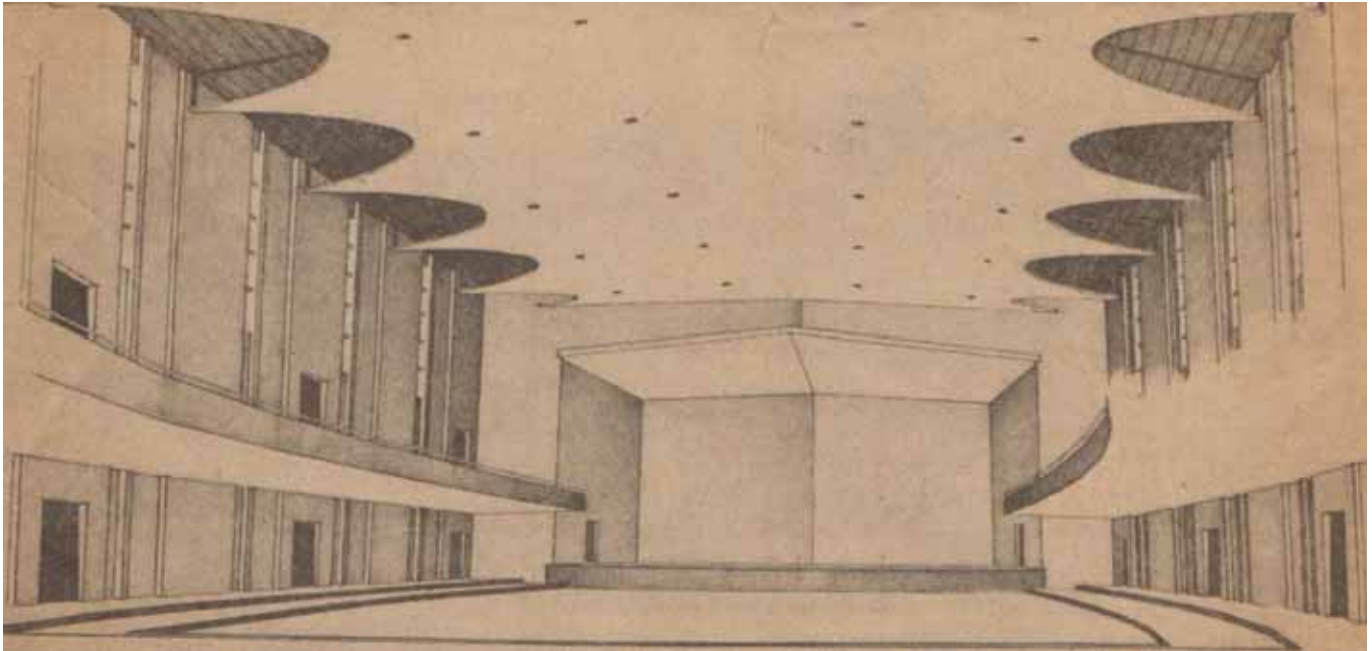


Auditorium — Cabaret Dinner Dance



Auditorium — View from Stage

Centennial Hall Brochure, 1973



Centennial Hall, Interior drawings, 1965



Centennial Hall, Southeast Corner of Exterior drawings, 1965

The project was sponsored by the London Jaycees and the \$10 went towards the construction of an ice rink whose feasibility study was approved by the Board of Control on October 5, 1966. The proposed 200 by 300 foot ice rink would cover about one quarter of the northeasterly area of Centennial Square.

Centennial Hall officially opened at 550 Wellington Street at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21st, 1967 by the Hon. John Robarts, Premier of Ontario and Mayor Frank Stronach. A dinner for \$4 a plate was supplied by Dufferin Hall Catering and was served at 6:15 p.m. to about 450 officials and guests, followed by the official opening concert at 8:30 p.m. by the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Councillor Martin Boundy who was the chair of the Centennial Celebrations Committee. Centennial Hall could hold 800 in the centre of the floor, 500 in the two raised levels and 600 in the balcony for a total capacity of 1,900.

On July 4th, 1967, the Board of Control authorized the City Clerk, on behalf of the Junior Chamber of Commerce to obtain the necessary approvals to have the Queen's initials etched in a Centennial stone and placed in the centre of the Centennial Square. In October 1967, the City Clerk was authorized to send a letter of appreciation to the University Women's Club and Mr. Bieler for the \$4,000 sculpture in the sunken garden on the north side of the Centennial Square on land that was former Princess Avenue. City Council allowed gifts by private individuals or corporations to be given to the Centennial Square project. The architect and committee supervising the project listed such items as a baby grand piano (\$3,000), eventually donated by the Japanese Canadian community in London, a fountain (\$300), lobby and promenade benches (\$400), movable theatre seats (\$60,000), an organ (\$50,000) and an upright piano (\$1,000).

Victoria House/Centennial Museum

As early as 1937, a plea was made to establish a historical museum in London. At the April 15th, 1937 meeting of the London and Middlesex Historical Society, 14 historical items were presented including communion tokens and minute books of the Telfer Presbyterian Church, an 1860 picture of Covent Market Square, a bench and table from the old barracks building, the cornerstone of the old Union School on King Street and a deck chair from the steamer Victoria. Most of these articles were stored in the treasure room next to the bindery under the front stairs of the Central Branch of the London Public Library at 305 Queens Avenue. Twenty-one years later on March 13th, 1958, London's newly established Historical Sites and Museums Committee asked City Council for the use of 512 Wellington Street as a temporary home for the museum until permanent quarters were acquired. In conjunction with the proposed civic centre opposite Victoria Park, in December 1957, City Council purchased the home which served as the manse for Metropolitan United Church from 1907 to 1957. The City granted the committee's request on May 20th, 1958 and on Friday November 7th, 1958 at 8:15 pm, London's first historical museum, Victoria House Museum, opened.



Victorian House Museum Leaflet, 1961



Victoria House Museum Opening Invitation, 1958



512 Wellington Street, 1965

In 1961, \$100 was spent to create and distribute a leaflet to promote the museum. On January 1st, 1963, the London Public Library Board assumed responsibility for the museum. On December 18th, 1963, London's first children's museum opened on the second floor of the Victoria House Museum. The Victoria House Museum vacated its Wellington Street quarters in 1966 and the house was demolished in January 1966. In October 1966 temporary museum quarters were found in an 1870 double house at 325-327 Queens Avenue just east of the Central Library.

The idea for Centennial Museum was conceived in 1962 when the London Public Library Board recommended to the Board of Control that a three-storey museum be built next to the Central Library at 305 Queens Avenue as the city's project to celebrate Canada's centennial in 1967. On November 29th, 1963 the Historical Museum Advisory Committee formed a sub-committee to compile information about this project. It was reported in the January 22nd, 1964 issue of the *London Free Press* that the London Public Library Board urged the construction of an historical museum at an estimated cost of \$350,000 to \$500,000. On April 20th, 1965, the recommendation from the London Public Library Board concerning the building of a historical museum as its centennial project was referred to the Centennial Convention Centre Committee. After lengthy deliberations, City Council decided to build a concert hall instead.

On April 26th, 1967, the London Building Trades Council announced that a \$50,000 one-storey historical museum would be constructed in the shape of the centennial symbol (a stylized maple leaf) on a site just east of the Central Library. The existing double house at 325-327 was demolished beginning on May 1st, 1967 and the museum building was constructed by local trades people, working on their own time and using no government

funding. Almost two years after Canada's Centennial Year, Centennial Museum was officially opened on May 9th, 1969 as an interactive museum, equipped with such innovative features as telephones that "talked" when receivers were lifted and film and sound that went on when people walked on certain carpeted areas. The Library Board closed the museum in December 1986 and it was then home for Information London for ten years from 1989 to 1999. The building was demolished on August 31st, 2005 and is now a parking lot.

London Public Library

In the 1961 Annual Report, Chief Librarian Charles Deane Kent reported, "*One of the biggest problems now is the overcrowding at the Main Library and Art Museum, which is affecting all departments and services. The Planning and Development Committee of the Library Board has been studying this situation for some months and it has come up with the proposal that an extension must be built shortly to the rear of the present Elsie Perrin William Memorial Building.*" The contract for extending the library building was not completed until 1967. To make room for the extension, the Kingsmill property at 321-323 Queens Avenue was purchased and demolished in June 1965. Formal openings of the expanded building planned for March and October were cancelled. The new million-dollar extension to the Central Branch of the London Public Library was officially opened on April 26th, 1968 by the Hon. John Robarts, Premier of Ontario, providing a new children's wing, more book space and more gallery space and increasing overall floor space from 39,600 square feet to 97,480 square feet.

The official project of the London Public Library Board was the reprinting of *Illustrated London* which was first published in 1897 and reprinted in 1900. The Library Board also renamed the old main gallery, the Centennial Gallery.

327 Queens Avenue,
1966



Sketch of Centennial
Museum, Opened 1969



Demolition of 325
Queens Avenue, 1967

London Room

On July 31st, 1967, the London Room was officially opened with \$3,000 being donated towards the furnishing of this room by the London Rotary Club, celebrating 50 years of Rotary in London. The London Room was created as a research facility for genealogy and local history, housing a wealth of primary and secondary source materials on the city of London and the county of Middlesex.

The local history collection came into existence after Chief Librarian Fred Landon advocated the preservation of local records in public libraries in his 1917 *Ontario Library Review* article entitled "The Library and Local Materials." Following his advice, London Public Library began to collect historical material about London and Londoners. Discards, gifts and purchases were the means whereby this Londoniana collection grew. The concept of a separate room for local materials came from former Chief Librarian Deane Kent whose interest in developing an easily accessible local history collection began about 1965 when plans for an addition to the Central Library were being investigated. Mr. Kent instructed Miss Elizabeth Spicer, Head of the Humanities Department, who was to become the first London Room librarian, to undertake a detailed survey of local history materials so as "to build the best collection in the world on London, Ontario."

In 1967, the concept of a local history room became a reality when the London Room officially opened on July 31st at 1:00 p.m. Due to increasing interest in local history, the need for more space for local materials became acute. Following the departure of the Art Gallery in 1980, the second floor was renovated enabling library services to move into the space, including expanded facilities for the London Room. Eventually space became a pressing issue for all of Central Library and consequently on August 25, 2002, the new Central Library opened in the former Bay Department Store in Galleria Mall (now Citi Plaza) at 251 Dundas Street, with the London Room on the third floor.



Central Library Extension, Opening Ceremonies, 1968



London Room Official Opening, 1967

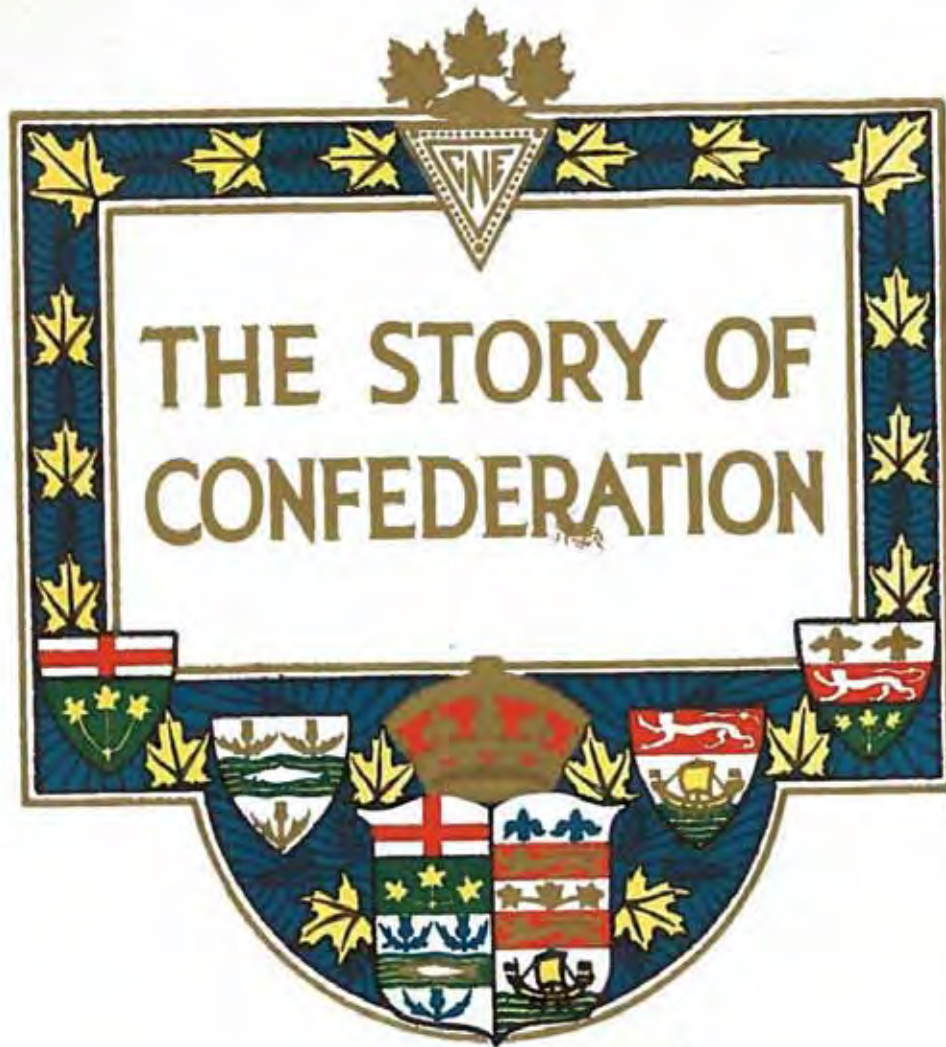
The London Room continues to attract researchers from around the world who make use of its genealogical and local history materials which are not easily found anywhere else. These materials include city directories on microfilm, diaries, published genealogies, handwritten manuscripts, high school yearbooks, original letters, photographs, programmes, scrapbooks and telephone directories on microfilm. Archival and rare

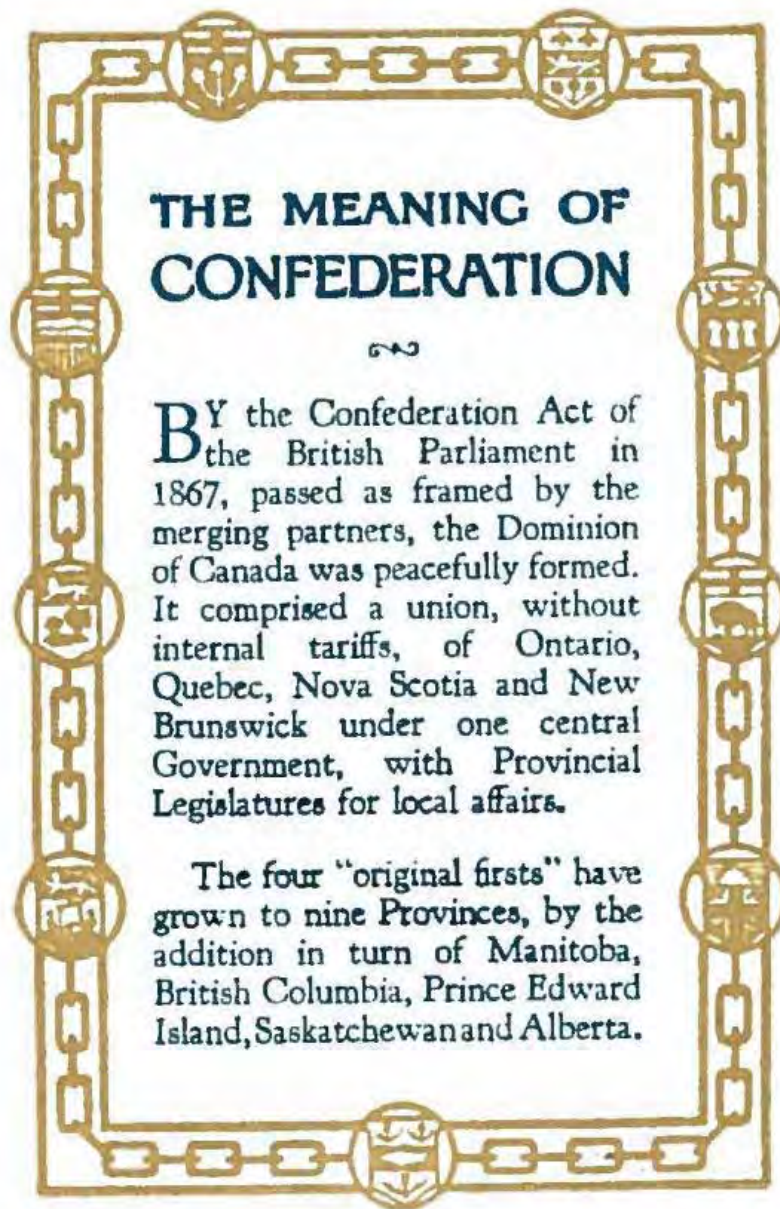
materials are stored in the closed stacks, a secure area.

In 2017, during the Sesquicentennial of Canada, the London Room also celebrated its 50th anniversary. A gala celebration was held from 1-4 pm on Monday July 31st, 2017 in the London Room. The event included the launch of a recently acquired London postcard collection, music, speeches and refreshments.

Sources of images

1. "Site of Centennial Museum, 1967" London Room Institutional Archives, Photographs, Centennial Museum Construction
2. "Centennial Hall Model, 1965" *London Free Press*. August 4, 1965
3. "Centennial Hall Brochure, 1973" London Room Archival Collection, Box # 312
4. "Centennial Hall, Interior Drawing, August 1965" *London Free Press*. August 4, 1965
5. "Centennial Hall Southeast Corner of Exterior Drawing, August 1965" *London Free Press*. August 4, 1965
6. "Victoria House Museum Leaflet, 1961" London Room Institutional Archives, Art Gallery and Museums Boxes
7. "Victoria House Museum Opening Invitation, 1958" London Room Institutional Archives, Art Gallery and Museums Boxes
8. "512 Wellington Street, 1965" London Room Demolished Buildings Files
9. "327 Queens Avenue, 1966" London Room Demolished Buildings Files
10. "Sketch of Centennial Museum, Opened in 1969"
11. "Demolition of 325 Queens Avenue, Summer 1967" London Room Institutional Archives, Photographs, Centennial Museum Construction
12. "Central Library Extension Opening Ceremonies, 1968" London Room Institutional Archives
13. "London Room Official Opening, Monday July 31st, 1967" London Room Institutional Archives







Queen Victoria
1867

THE STORY OF

QN a late August day in 1864 a little steamer, with the pompous name "Queen Victoria," left Quebec for Charlottetown. Slight attention was paid by the public to the incident, though the ship carried eight Ministers of the Canadian Cabinet. A later generation might have called the journey a "joy ride," for the men had set out uninvited to attend a conference called by the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. These little outposts of the British Empire, finding conditions none too favorable, had decided to talk over a union among themselves. Political troubles had caused similar discussion at Quebec, then the capital of United Canada,



Ruins of Old Fort Rouille on the site of which stands the present C.N.E.

and it was finally realized that something must be done. The union of 1841 had not stood the test of an expanding Upper Canada, deprived of adequate membership in Parliament, and there was jealousy and discontent. Economic progress was in its infancy, and the Canada that was to be known to patrons of the Canadian National Exhibition half a century later was not dreamed of.

As the uninvited delegates took their way down the spacious St. Lawrence they talked of the past and the future. John A. Macdonald was the natural leader of the group, a man of supreme political gifts, masterful yet human,

Old Court House,
Toronto,
Birthplace Provincial
Agricultural Fair,
1846



CONFEDERATION



Sir John A. Macdonald
1867

far-sighted yet practical. Even his political enemies could not resist affection for the Tory chieftain. George Brown was in the party, but he and Macdonald had long been rivals, even personal enemies. They did not mince words when they spoke of each other on the platforms of Upper Canada. Yet they now had cast their lot together, sunk their differences and entered



The Queen Victoria

the same Cabinet to find a solution for the deadlock which had come. In three years four Cabinets had resigned and two general elections had been held, and still there was no political progress. It seemed as if only a daring, perhaps a desperate course would save the situation. On Brown's suggestion, friends

brought the two rivals together, and after a week's negotiation the members beheld them in earnest converse on the floor of Parliament one June day and foresaw a political millenium.

As the "Queen Victoria" drove her prow through the waters of the Gulf, the Canadian delegates considered what they had to offer the men of the Eastern Provinces. They had a larger country, with more people. That meant wider markets, which would be much needed if the Maritimes lost their American preference by the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty which had brought prosperity never before experienced.

Entrance to the Old
Fort in the '60's





Viscount Monck,
1867-1868

THE STORY OF

Trade and industry were then as now the chief object of nation builders, and the Canadians were ready to picture the immense possibilities of free movement of goods among scattered Provinces with a combined population of 3,500,000. Could they have added the attraction of a great exhibition revealing the products of the scattered Provinces, how much more convincing their arguments would have been!

“Welcome” was on the doormat when the Queen Victoria entered the harbor of Charlottetown, a quiet community with the serenity natural to its isolation, but with the dignity and ambition befitting the Island capital. This dignity was reflected quickly in the turn of events, for the insistence of Charlottetown that it should be made the capital of a Maritime union opened the door the more readily for the wider proposal.



George Brown Addressing Farmers
on Confederation Idea

Crystal Palace,
Toronto,
First Permanent
Exhibition Building,
1858



Dr. Charles Tupper, the Premier of Nova Scotia, was the dominating figure in the Eastern group, and it was not long before the entire company warmed to the proposal from the Westerners: “Why not make a union for all the Provinces?” Conferences in secret in the early days of September speedily developed the genesis of Confederation, though the outside world had no hint of the important deliberations until a series of banquets at various cities brought revelation of the far-

CONFEDERATION

reaching scheme. The captains adventurous who had sailed from Quebec in search of the basis for a new nation had reached a haven, and the foundations were laid for great events. In the words of the commemorative tablet at Charlottetown;

*"Providence being their guide,
They builded better than they knew."*

Already the eyes of the delegates were bulging with visions of the future. Macdonald told an audience at Charlottetown that he looked for a union which would make the Provinces "at least the fourth nation on the face of the globe." He did not dream that men then living would see in Toronto the greatest annual exhibition in the world.



King and Yonge Streets, 1860

Quebec, whose frowning Cape Diamond had witnessed so much of the history of Canada since its founding in 1608, was now to play host to the "Fathers of Confederation." Delegates from six Provinces, including Newfoundland, again assembled in October in the Parliament Building, overlooking the St. Lawrence, and on the site of the Bishop's Palace where had met the first Parliament of Canada in 1792. The occasion brought the cream of the statesmen of the various Provinces, the strong men who had grown up under the newly-granted responsible government.



Lord Lisgar,
1868-1872

Scene at Exhibition,
1852





The Marquis of
Dufferin,
1872-1878

THE STORY OF

There was something Homeric about this meeting. It was a vindication of a prophecy by Dr. Charles Tupper in a lecture at St. John in 1860, on political conditions in the Provinces, when he said: "It requires a great country and great circumstances to develop great men."

Three weeks' secret conferences resulted in the formation of the general scheme for a federation, and the adoption of 72 resolutions which later were confirmed by the entering Provinces and translated into the constitution known as the British North America Act. The leading delegates then visited Montreal, Toronto, Niagara Falls and other points, being greeted with enthusiasm as the plan was unfolded. At Toronto the Ministers' train was awaited by 8,000 people on its arrival late at night. This was a large gathering for the young city of that day, but had they visited the Canadian National Exhibition on Labor Day, 1926, they might have been greeted by 258,000 people.



Boyhood Home of
Sir John Macdonald

Floral Hall,
1852



But victory was far from won. While the Parliament of Canada was holding its memorable debate on the Confederation proposals early in 1865, there came a bombshell in news from the Eastern Provinces. The pro-Confederation government of New Brunswick had met defeat. Nova Scotia had cooled owing to the fiery opposition

CONFEDERATION

of the eloquent Joseph Howe, and Prince Edward Island had gone back on the proposal. Newfoundland, which had sent delegates to Charlottetown and Quebec, dropped the union idea and has never since changed its mind. Two years were needed to carry Confederation in the remaining two Eastern Provinces, and it required all the courage and sagacity of Tupper in Nova Scotia and Tilley in New Brunswick to bring ultimate victory.



Yonge Street Toll Gate, 1830-1865

In the meantime, George Brown retired abruptly from the coalition Cabinet, but continued to support union. George E. Cartier led the union forces in Lower Canada, his dauntless spirit supported by the Roman Catholic Church and by the statesmanship of A. T. Galt, leader of the Protestant section of the Tory party. The golden-voiced D'Arcy McGee made converts everywhere by his Celtic fervor and eloquence. Here is a specimen of his oratory:

"If we remain as fragments we shall be lost; but let us be united and we shall be as a rock which, immovable itself, flings back the waves that may be dashed against it by the storm."

McGee campaigned from Halifax to Sarnia and lifted the cause to a plane where political and moral ideas met. His speeches had force and



The Marquis of Lorne, 1878-1883

Agricultural Hall, 1852





The Marquis of
Lansdowne,
1883-1888

THE STORY OF

imagery, as in this extract from a Parliamentary debate:

“Events stronger than advocacy, events stronger than men, have come in at last like the fire behind the invisible writing to bring out the truth of these writings and to impress them upon the mind of every thoughtful man who has considered the position and probable future of these Provinces.”

The Provinces which joined so hesitatingly in the 'sixties have since united on many great issues and in no one more effectively than in displaying their wealth at the Canadian National Exhibition.

The stalwart Brown, towering physically and mentally over his fellows, went through the land, his long, earnest speeches cheering and stimulating the hungry rural audiences far into the night. Public halls were rare in those days, and often he spoke in an ill-smelling auditorium above the horse-shed attached to a tavern. There was no Coliseum then as later decades knew at Toronto, with its audience of ten thousand and more. In one of these early addresses before Confederation Brown said:

“Sir, it is my fervent aspiration and hope that some here to-night may live to see the day when the British American flag shall proudly wave



The Sea Gull which Traded from
Toronto 60 Years Ago

Main Building of
Exhibition, 1879



CONFEDERATION

from Labrador to Vancouver Island, and from our own Niagara to the shores of Hudson Bay.”

The political battle for Confederation was eventually won, the bill authorizing the union passed by the British Parliament, and the new measure made effective on July 1, 1867, amid bonfires and bell-ringing at many points. Its last stage had been hastened by fear of aggression from the United States, from which there had been Fenian raids, and where thousands of soldiers had just been released from the Civil War.



Grain Boat of Present Day

Union was won, but what was to be done with it? The first Premier was Sir John A. Macdonald—now knighted—and he promptly set up his political house. The Provinces were organizing and laying plans for the future. The constitution gave the central parliament,

which had been moved to Ottawa as the new capital, control over trade, defence, post-office and other general matters, while the Provinces ruled in education and local affairs. It was a simple, indeed a backward Canada which emerged into the new federation. Settlement virtually ended at Lake Huron. A great wilderness stretched to the Pacific under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company, the fur-trading organization chartered by Charles II in 1672. This body made large profits from buying



Lord Stanley of Preston, 1888-1893

Birdseye of Exhibition, 1885





The Marquis of
Lansdowne,
1883-1888

THE STORY OF

imagery, as in this extract from a Parliamentary debate:

“Events stronger than advocacy, events stronger than men, have come in at last like the fire behind the invisible writing to bring out the truth of these writings and to impress them upon the mind of every thoughtful man who has considered the position and probable future of these Provinces.”

The Provinces which joined so hesitatingly in the 'sixties have since united on many great issues and in no one more effectively than in displaying their wealth at the Canadian National Exhibition.



The Sea Gull which Traded from
Toronto 60 Years Ago

The stalwart Brown, towering physically and mentally over his fellows, went through the land, his long, earnest speeches cheering and stimulating the

hungry rural audiences far into the night. Public halls were rare in those days, and often he spoke in an ill-smelling auditorium above the horse-shed attached to a tavern. There was no Coliseum then as later decades knew at Toronto, with its audience of ten thousand and more. In one of these early addresses before Confederation Brown said:

“Sir, it is my fervent aspiration and hope that some here to-night may live to see the day when the British American flag shall proudly wave

Main Building of
Exhibition, 1879



CONFEDERATION

from Labrador to Vancouver Island, and from our own Niagara to the shores of Hudson Bay.”

The political battle for Confederation was eventually won, the bill authorizing the union passed by the British Parliament, and the new measure made effective on July 1, 1867, amid bonfires and bell-ringing at many points. Its last stage had been hastened by fear of aggression from the United States, from which there had been Fenian raids, and where thousands of soldiers had just been released from the Civil War.



Grain Boat of Present Day

Union was won, but what was to be done with it? The first Premier was Sir John A. Macdonald—now knighted—and he promptly set up his political house. The Provinces were organizing and laying plans for the future. The constitution gave the central parliament,

which had been moved to Ottawa as the new capital, control over trade, defence, post-office and other general matters, while the Provinces ruled in education and local affairs.

It was a simple, indeed a backward Canada which emerged into the new federation. Settlement virtually ended at Lake Huron. A great wilderness stretched to the Pacific under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company, the fur-trading organization chartered by Charles II in 1672. This body made large profits from buying



Lord Stanley of
Preston,
1888-1893

Birdseye of
Exhibition, 1885





THE STORY OF



CONFEDERATION



*Fathers of Confederation, men of vision every one,
By whose hands, divinely guided, threads of destiny were spun--
Could they now behold the fabric after three score years have flown!
One united mighty nation out of their ideals has grown.*



The Earl of Aberdeen,
1893-1898

THE STORY OF

skins from trappers and selling furs to the fashionable people of Europe. The Company, naturally, had little relish for the idea of settling the West.

George Brown had been campaigning for many years in *The Globe* for the acquisition of the Northwest, and this was achieved by purchase in 1869. Manitoba was set up as a Province in the Dominion in 1870, and British Columbia in 1871, the latter entering under promise of railway connection, which, however, was not realized until 1885. The rights of the Indians on the prairie were acquired by a series of treaties in the 'seventies, but Saskatchewan and Alberta were not made Provinces until the legislation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government in 1905.



Pioneers Reading by Candle-light

What of the Canada of our grandfathers' day? It was occupied by a courageous pioneer people who worked diligently but without the haste of the twentieth century. Log cabins dotted the land, with here and there a more imposing building. The tide of immigration had set westward, and the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada and the Lake Huron Counties of Upper Canada were yielding to the axe of sturdy settlers from the British Isles.

The feeble gleam of the candle lighted the dim interior of the pioneer's cabin as the Bible was brought for family worship hour of the devout

Ferry Boats Stopping
at the Exhibition,
1891



CONFEDERATION



The Earl of Minto,
1893-1904

founders of our country. Wheel vehicles were crude and simple, the "lumber wagon" being the common carrier for the hay crop to the barn and for the family to Sunday service. The end of the nineteenth century brought the "horseless carriage," its use expanding until today there are 650,000 motor vehicles in Canada, the purchase of which has been vastly encouraged by the annual display in the Transportation Building at the Canadian National Exhibition.



Developing Hydro Power

Science likewise has harnessed the water falls and carried electric lights to remote rural homes. Railways had made a humble start in Lower Canada with a 16-mile line in 1836. By the year of Confederation there were 2,278 miles in Canada, while today there are over 40,000 miles, gridironing the settled regions and

breaking ground with thousands of miles of colonizing lines.

Nothing has mirrored this growing Canada as has the Canadian National Exhibition. Succeeding a local enterprise of small dimensions, the Canadian National dates properly from 1878. Built upon and around the site of the original French trading post, Fort Rouille, of 1749, it has expanded rapidly from Strachan Avenue to beyond Dufferin Street, until it has a lake frontage of a mile, buildings and property worth \$12,000,000,

Rifle Ranges Purchased by Exhibition
in 1892





Earl Grey,
1904-1911

THE STORY OF

and an annual attendance exceeding 1,500,000. It is a presentation of Canada in miniature, but in later years its scope has been widened to include important sections of the Empire beyond the seas. It has ever kept pace with science and industry, and led in acquainting its patrons with the progress of the world. The first electric railway in America was operated on its grounds in 1884, and thousands of its visitors had in its buildings the first glimpse of inventions which have recast social and industrial life in the last generation. By its awards it has encouraged live stock breeding, grain, fruits and other branches of industry and aided Canadians to win their way in world trade.



Ox Cart as Used in the 60's

For years the Canadian National Exhibition has been eagerly visited by thousands who would quickly learn something of the life, achievements and resources of Canada. No other such opportunity exists. Distinguished visitors to the Dominion have recorded their impressions in terms of praise and inspiration. Li Hung Chang, Viceroy of China, who saw the Exhibition in 1896, expressed his gratitude that his visit coincided with the National Exhibition, and he had done himself the honor and pleasure of paying a visit where all the natural products of the vast regions of Canada were gathered.

Transportation
Building,
Built in 1909



CONFEDERATION

The Prince of Wales, whose days at the Exhibition in 1919 created such a furore of public interest, referred to the "wonderful Toronto Exhibition, which brings home to me the greatness of the Capital of Ontario."

The Diwan, Bahadur, who came 10,000 miles from India to open the Exhibition of 1926, was greatly impressed by his tour of Canada and declared his belief that the future possibilities of the Dominion "are great, almost unlimited." At the Exhibition he spoke with enthusiasm of the amusements, the automobiles, the British and New Zealand exhibits, and other attractions.



Early Horseless Wagon

Toronto typifies the progress of Canada which the last sixty years have witnessed. In the middle 'sixties it was a small city of 45,000, leisurely in pace, of low, simple buildings, but carrying the atmosphere created by its faithful Loyalist and British founders. The city then lay between the Don and Dufferin Street, south of Bloor, and was ringed about by a dozen villages afterwards engulfed in the growing metropolis. Fashionable residents drove about in their carriages or paraded King Street of an afternoon, when crinolines, grey top hats and other Victorian apparel gave an appearance strangely contrasting with the present.



H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, K.G., 1911-1916

Dominion Government Building, Constructed in 1912





Duke of Devonshire,
1916-1921

THE STORY OF

Electric light was unknown and the gloom of the streets was broken at night by gas lamps, lighted at dusk by an eager figure darting from post to post, a Canadian Leerie such as Robert Louis Stevenson has so prettily described in "The Lamplighter." Today no Leerie is needed to carry his ladder through the streets. A mammoth power house beside Niagara Falls harnesses the energy of the mighty cataract, and a few switches direct the current from that nerve centre to the street lights, the house lamps and the machinery of the factory.

The city has grown to 550,000, and the Exhibition, by attracting visitors and capital, and by stimulating trade and industry has contributed not a little to the expansion.



The Lady Elgin, Pioneer of
the Steam Road

The Canada that entered timidly, but with hope, upon the path of nation building has expanded from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and, as Joseph Howe prophesied over seventy years ago, the whistle of the locomotive has long since been heard in the passes of the Rocky Mountains. More than forty years ago "No. 1 Westbound" made its way by the Canadian Pacific to the ports of the Pacific, as pictured by Pauline Johnson:

*"I swing to the sunset lands—
The world of prairie, the world of plain,
The world of promise and hope and gain,
The world of gold, and the world of grain,
And the world of the willing hand."*

The Gooderham
Fountain,
Erected in 1915



CONFEDERATION

The West has literally transformed the Dominion in the last quarter century. The wheat harvest of 37,000,000 bushels in 1900 has grown to 406,000,000 in 1926. The open prairies have attracted hundreds of thousands of new settlers to the "last, best West." The population of all Canada has risen from 3,500,000 at Confederation to 9,000,000. Foreign trade, still more remarkable, has increased from \$110,000,000 in 1868 to \$2,255,939,869 in 1926.



Transcontinental Engine, 1927

Total production from all industries exceeds \$3,000,000,000 annually, or more than the total national debt, including war obligations.

Such a period of nation building has called forth the best in men, as the making of union in the 'sixties called forth the best in the "Fathers of Confederation." There have been difficulties, individual and national, but character and unceasing industry have triumphed. The mood of the people was well described by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the inauguration ceremonies for Alberta at Edmonton in 1905, when he said:

"When I look about me on this sea of upturned faces, I see the determination of the new Provinces. I see everywhere hope, I see calm resolution, courage, enthusiasm to face all difficulties,



Lord Byng of Vimy,
1921-1926

Coliseum,
Opened August, 1923





Viscount Willingdon
1926

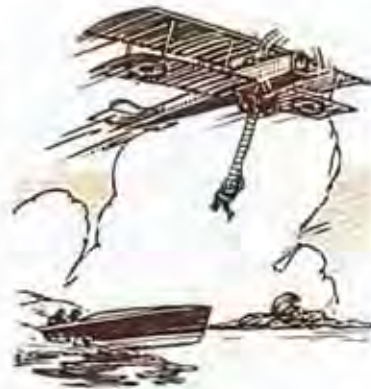
THE STORY OF CONFEDERATION

to settle all problems. If it be true everywhere it must be more true here in this new Province, in this bracing atmosphere of the prairie, that 'Hope springs eternal in the human breast'."

The hope and confidence of the West is mirrored with the serenity and efficiency of the East and the quality of Empire products from overseas, in the displays at the Canadian National Exhibition. The spirit that urges Canadians ever forward is reflected in the bounding energy and ambition which annually assembles this vast, pulsating enterprise afresh.

After sixty years of Confederation national unity becomes more evident; sectional and creed cries lose their force. The name "Canadian" is more significant, the national spirit, joined with loyalty to the Crown, becomes more assertive. The past has brought its trials, the future will not be without problems, but Canadians feel the impulse and bounding inspiration of Confederation, as so well expressed by Earl Grey in 1909 while Governor-General:

"Confederation has put a soul into the Dominion, has put a national spirit into the people of Canada, whose lustre and growth are at once the hope and the glory of the British Empire."



Motor Boats and Aeroplanes
Exhibition, 1926

The Province of
Ontario Building,
Completed in 1926





Guidelines for Authors

The Editor welcomes manuscript submissions on all aspects of the history of London and Middlesex County, independent of period, including articles on historic neighbourhoods.

All correspondence regarding editorial matters should be addressed to:

The London and Middlesex Historian
c/o The London and Middlesex Historical Society
Box 303, Station B
London, Ontario
N6A 4W1

Manuscripts should be approximately 2,000 to 4,000 words, double-spaced and submitted electronically using Microsoft Word. Articles of longer length should be vetted with the publisher before submission.

A cover letter should be included with each submission, stating:

- a) that the manuscript is not and will not be under concurrent consideration by another journal (publication by the author at a later date remains the right of the author);
- b) that all co-authors have read and approved of the submission; and
- c) any relevant permissions for use of images submitted if not in the public domain.

If used, illustrations and or photographs should accompany the manuscript. When possible, documents should be provided electronically, at a quality level no less than 300dpi. It is preferable for publication permissions to be obtained by the author, however when necessary the Society will cover the cost of illustration reproduction at the recommendation of the Editor.

Captions should be included for photographs and illustrations submitted, either within the manuscript or at the end of the article. Caption information should include the date, photographer or artist and if known the source and any credit information.



THE MEANING OF CONFEDERATION



BY the Confederation Act of the British Parliament in 1867, passed as framed by the merging partners, the Dominion of Canada was peacefully formed. It comprised a union, without internal tariffs, of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick under one central Government, with Provincial Legislatures for local affairs.

The four "original firsts" have grown to nine Provinces, by the addition in turn of Manitoba, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Alberta.