

True north strong and free



Akbarudeen Sainulabdeen, first-year human resources student at Loyalist College, is pictured with the Canadian flag on campus. Sainulabdeen moved to Canada from India at the beginning of September to start school and plans to settle in or near Toronto.

Photo by Franki Ikeman

By Tristan Urry

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the National Flag of Canada on this Sunday, here are a few things you should know about our current flag.

In 1964, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson decided we needed a new flag without Britain's flag to show that we were a grown up country that included Quebec. However, many Canadians were proud of the Canadian Red Ensign that our troops carried into battle in the Second World War, even

though it was never legislated as our national flag.

Pearson came up with a three maple leaf flag with blue sidebars that left people unimpressed. A committee weighed over 3,000 submissions and narrowed it down to three: a Red Ensign with the fleur-de-lis and the Union Jack, Three red maple leaves between two blue borders, and a red maple leaf on a white square between two red borders.

They presented the three to Pearson the next morning at his residence at Harrington Lake the next morning. Out of the three proposals on the table, the single maple leaf designed by George

F.G. Stanley was chosen.

The single Maple leaf design with two red bars was inspired by the Royal Military College flag. It was the single leaf, red and white design that the Committee recommended to Parliament.

The committee liked the flag designed by George F.G. Stanley because the simplicity of the design made it easily recognizable and it used the national colours. The motion was passed to adopt this design as the National Flag of Canada with a vote of 163 to 78 on Dec. 15, 1964. Approved by the senate two days later on Dec. 17, 1964 and proclaimed by the Queen on Jan. 28, 1965, the

current flag was inaugurated on Feb. 15, 1965.

The current flag has a few interesting facts that most people don't realize. The white square in the middle is the same size as both red bars combined. The flag is twice as long as it is wide, and it was first launched into space in 1984 on the uniform of Marc Garneau.

Our National Flag of Canada has had a very complicated history, but nonetheless we are proud to fly it high and celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Happy Flag Day!

For a multi-media version of Flag Day, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=49708>



(Above) Twenty-nine-year-old Tiffany Ann Chua emigrated to Canada a year ago from the Philippines to pursue her career in nursing. Chua has been working at Loyalist College's Tim Hortons since her arrival, waiting to get her papers and accreditation in order.

Photo by Annie Sakkab

(Right) Chenbin Hu (Samantha), 31, and her daughter, Sophia Millar, 13 months, have been living in Canada for almost 12 years. Hu was born and raised in China, and moved here with her husband. Her daughter was born in China, but has Canadian citizenship. Hu works at the Little Rascals daycare in Belleville, and her daughter also goes there.

Photo by Sarra Lalonde



(Above) Chan You Su poses outside the North China Buffet in Belleville. She has lived in Canada for 10 years and recently became a citizen. She says about Canada: "It is a cold country but people are warm."

Photo by Giovanni Capriotti

(Right) Mica Padezanin, 37, was born in the former Yugoslavia and is now living in Belleville. Padezanin has been living in Canada for 23 years. With 50th anniversary of the Canadian flag right around the corner on Feb. 15, she will be celebrating by obtaining her official Canadian citizenship the next day. "Canada gave me a better life and education," Padezanin said.

Photo by Nathan Zbeetnoff

