

VOLUNTEER VOICES

June 30, 2017

CANADA 150: Honoring those before us by Riza Anggara

In celebration of Canada's sesqui-centennial anniversary, Canadians across the country are filled with jubilation. Months before the official day, promotional activities, banners and logos can be seen everywhere. Parks Canada offered a free one year pass which was a highlight for many Canadians, giving them the opportunity to explore the beautiful national parks across the county. Official celebrations started on June 21, 2017.

With a recent name change to National Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21 is a special day chosen to recognize the vital place and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people in Canada. First celebrated in 1996, the day not only seeks to recognize the first people to occupy this land, but also to connect them with Canadians and to develop greater mutual understanding.



This day was selected as it is when we celebrate the beginning of the summer solstice. Choosing this date as the beginning of the Canada 150 celebrations gives it duo meaning; to pay tribute to the beginning of this country and to mark the beginning of the next 150 years.

CCIS Volunteers, mark your calendars and save the date! The 2017 Volunteer Recognition Event is coming to the CCIS corral this September.

Watch for the invitation in your email inbox!

CALGARY STAMPEDE: Where did it come from? by Riza Anggara

Calgarians rave about "The Stampede"; which begins every year after the Canada Day celebrations, giving us another ten days of pancake flipping, cowboy hat throwing and outdoor partying.

This western theme event has 105 years of history and is a major event for tourists and locals. But, few people ever look back to its origins and they rarely know that this defining event in our city was actually started by an immigrant.

The Stampede was the brainchild of New Yorker Guy Weadick. Born in Rochester in 1885, Weadick was drawn to the cowboy lifestyle and travelled west to learn skills like horse-riding and roping. After stepping foot in Calgary for the 1908 Dominion Exhibition, Weadick started to conceive the concept of a spectacular western show for the city.

His first attempted to persuade the Calgary Industrial Exhibition Board in 1912 was unsuccessful, but that was not the end. Ranch owner George Lane heard about Weadick's idea and decided to sponsor the first show with three other businessmen, Patrick Burns, A.E. Cross and Archie MacLean, collectively known as the "Big Four".

Over the years, the Stampede has become a deeply held tradition in Calgary. With annual attendance rates of over one million, the Stampede's essential role is undeniable.

Come rain or shine, "The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth" will go on!