



What a bash!

The Walking Parade left the old St. Mary's school yard at noon, led by the Bradford West Gwillimbury Police, Fire Department, and St.

John's Ambulance, as crowds holding red and white balloons lined Simcoe Street.

To the stirring sound of the

Innisfil Pipes and Drums, marchers - including the IODE, members of the Portuguese Community, a contingent from Base Camp Borden, and the Color Guard of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 521 - paraded down Simcoe to the Arena, where they marshalled on the soccer pitch. In the reviewing stand, representing the community, were Nick Chreptiuk, Renee Desjardins, Helen and George Jackson, Pat and Ron Kneeshaw, Jamie Snow, Marianne and Trevor Wilson, and Mayor Pat Storey, who read a special Canada Day message.

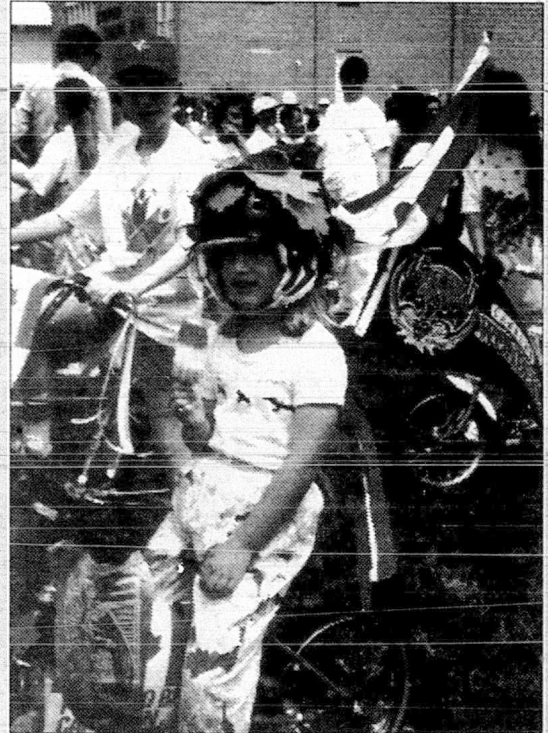
Then the birthday party began, and what a party it was, with 50 cent hot dogs sold by the Lions, 50 cent drinks sold by the Rotary Club, free watermelon from Bak's Market, and an enormous Canada 125 cake, courtesy of former Deputy Reeve Frances Reid.

There were games for the kids (and their parents), soccer and baseball exhibition games, a bike decorating contest, talent show, a dance out in the open air, and as the finale, the largest display of fireworks ever put on by the Chamber of Commerce, which organized the day's celebrations.

"It's really nice to see so many out, when I understand a lot of people have to work today," said Mayor Storey. "People really are interested in a community event that they can take part in - it's like an old-fashioned picnic."



Dressed in red and white to watch the Canada Day Walking parade - from right, John, 10, Martina, 12, and Julia, 7 had curbside seats.



Bike decorating contest was a highlight of Canada Day at the Arena.



A flag for Canada Day - family and friends of Bill and Brenda Vernon prepare to raise the flag.



Above: Sparklers in the dark, just before the big fireworks display.

Left: Euric, 7 months, enjoyed his first Canada Day Parade - but was far more interested in his first balloon.

Below: Marching in the parade, students of Martin's Taekwon-Do carried an enormous Canadian flag down Simcoe Street, to the Bradford Community Centre.

