



C. G. 1964

# Canadian, eh!

By **JOHN CRUST**  
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Southern California, home of the Beach Boys, Hollywood, Disneyland — and Canadians.

Next to the populace from Latin America, Canadians are the largest expatriate group living in the Los Angeles area, county officials say.

One million people from Canada live in Southern California, says **Ed Hepner**, Los Angeles-based consul for political and economic affairs. Of these, he said, 750,000 Canadians live in Los Angeles County.

**John Hernandez**, information service specialist of the U.S. Census, said 1970 census statistics recorded 174,729 Canadians living in Los Angeles County, 65,408 of them in the city of Los Angeles. Hernandez added the number has probably risen since then.

Hepner said up to 80,000 people from the French Canadian province of Quebec also live in the Los Angeles area. "Our good French restaurant cuisine in Los Angeles is courtesy of Quebec," he said.

Unlike the British, who generally have congregated in Santa Monica, Hepner said Canadians live throughout the Los Angeles County area. "Canadians are the only group of people that do not congregate in one area — They melt in with the population. You do not know who a Canadian is."

"They speak perfect English — they blend in with the rest of the population," Hernandez said. "They are never questioned for their documentation."

Illegal Canadians are not a problem, said **Omer Sewell**, deputy director with the Los Angeles Immigration District.

"We're a very popular place to be — our weather has for years

attracted Canadians," he said.

U.S. quotas allow 25,000 Canadians into the country each year, Hepner said, and there is up to a three-year wait to be included in the quota.

**Lynn Seipp**, 48, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, left for Los Angeles in 1958. "Why not," Seipp said. "Why stay in Winnipeg? There is more opportunity here."

According to **David Ogroskin**, 65, a salesman who left Trail, B.C., Canadians who have come years before now draw their friends. "That's how you really get down here — you have friends here," he said. "Most of my friends are from Canada."

For some, however, the golden opportunities dreamed of do not materialize.

**Tom Gilman**, 56, a self-employed accountant from Winnipeg, arrived in Los Angeles in 1966. "I was bored with life in Winnipeg," he explained.

Ten years later, he and his wife moved back to Winnipeg. Gilman said he dreaded driving 27 miles each way — to and from work — on the Los Angeles freeways.

"I worked downtown. It was bumper-to-bumper traffic each way. I hated it," he recalled.

For Canadian **Sheldon Slusman**, the glamor and glitter has faded since the 1960s — and the opportunities the area once boasted are not as great as they used to be.

"If you come out here with big bucks, you might have a shot at being successful," said Slusman, 47, who owns a restaurant in North Hollywood.

"I don't know if I'd come down today — it's tough (in Los Angeles) now. Just a kid coming down and taking it by a storm? — the jobs aren't here."

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