

How Canada started Thanksgiving

BY MARGAUX WINTER
STAFF WRITER

On Monday Oct. 12, Canada celebrated its Thanksgiving Day. But how did this holiday occur? Many Americans are not aware of Canadian Thanksgiving and oblivious to how this holiday came to be.

The holiday originated similarly to America's Thanksgiving. Although Americans tend to focus on the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock as the most important immigrants to America during the late 16th and early 17th centuries, they were certainly not the only new settlers.

In fact, the first Canadian Thanksgiving was celebrated 43 years before the one at Plymouth Rock.

Canadian Thanksgiving is closely tied to the celebrations of harvest and thanks that took place in Europe during the month of October. As European explorers began to travel to America, they brought their holiday with them.

English explorer Martin Frobisher celebrated the first Thanksgiving in 1578 at Nunavut, Canada. Frobisher is also known for his attempts to find the Northwest Passage, and his discoveries of what he thought to be gold ore.

Unfortunately his 1,350 tons of ore turned out to be worthless iron pyrite, but at least he began the tradition of celebrating the harvest in America.

Of course, most native tribes in the Americas had been celebrating the harvest for generations. Samuel de Champlain drew upon the traditions of the Algonquin and Huron tribes to establish a communal "Order of Good



Pumpkins sell for \$1 each in Boone, N.C. Pumpkins are a common symbol associated with the fall season and popular in the month of October.

Cheer," which first took place on Nov. 14, 1606. The event was attended by Champlain's men, as well as the Sagamore Memertou, and twenty or thirty other people of the Algonquin and Huron tribes.

Similar celebrations followed for a few centuries, but the event was not nationally recognized, nor did it occur at the same time every year. During the American Revolution, many loyalists moved to Canada, and brought with them the traditions of an American Thanksgiving.

Certain vegetables, such as squash and pumpkin, became a staple for Canadians around the months of October and No-

vember.

Surprisingly, the very first nationally recognized Canadian Thanksgiving was celebrated as a civic holiday on April 5, 1872 to celebrate the Prince of Wales' recovery after a serious illness.

Starting in 1879, Canadian Thanksgiving was officially observed every year, with a changing date.

Finally, in 1957, the holiday was declared to take place on the second Monday in October. If you are wondering why the Canadian government made such a radical decision as to celebrate thanksgiving in October instead of November, just look to the 49th parallel.

Canada is geographically farther north than the United States, meaning that its seasons arrive a few weeks earlier than ours.

Unlike its American counterpart, Canadian Thanksgiving is not considered a prominent holiday. The day generally elicits a three-day weekend, but is not observed by all Canadians. Canadian Thanksgiving feasts often include traditional fall vegetables and fruits, but the American tradition of a roast turkey is not always served.

Some people who observe the holiday prefer to include regional dishes and meats, such as salmon or wild game.

Canadian sports fans may celebrate the day with the Canadian Football League's nationally televised doubleheader, the Thanksgiving Day Classic.

The holiday coincides with the American observance of Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day, so many American towns with high levels of Canadian tourism hold one amalgamated fall festival.

Although you may think of Canada as a place only for annual bathtub races and maple syrup, perhaps you should give thanks to Canada this year before you start your Thanksgiving dinner.

Second trimester slump looms for juniors and seniors alike

BY BRINDA SARATHY
OPINION EDITOR

It's cold outside - far colder than you expected.

You take the tunnel to class, and yet you shiver in a thick hoodie and internally curse the weather, even though you aren't outside.

You make plans to go to Joe Van Gogh's after classes, only to rush back while clutching your coffee because sunset is at 5:00 p.m. nowadays, and you forgot.

8 a.m. classes are becoming harder to wake up for, and suddenly you've lost all motivation to study for that Physics test.

You go to sleep later because of the increased workload, and more often than not, you lie in bed reflecting on warm summer memories with nostalgia and counting down the days to Mini-Term.

These are the symptoms of the dreaded "Second Trimester Slump."

Most people can't pin down one factor that causes "Second Trimester Slump."

Many attribute the general feelings of gloom to the weather and increased work in their classes.

When asked what caused "Second Trimester Slump" for him, senior JP Rickabaugh commented, "It sucks because it's cold and... full of work."

Typically during second trimester, the workload increases, and many juniors are suddenly overwhelmed by the number of hours their homework takes to complete.

Peers who Chem/Phys (take both Chemistry and Physics - classes known for their large amount of homework -- in the same trimester) feel the effects of the increased workload as well.

Senior Curie Shim noted

that she had "Two to three labs in physics and one lab in chemistry per week" in addition to "weekly chemistry quizzes and nightly physics homework" during second trimester of her junior year.

It leads to "very many late nights", Shim added thoughtfully.

However, the workload and increased expectations of teachers are only one cause of "Second Trimester Slump."

Students often think "Second Trimester Slump" is caused by the winter months.

Senior Allison Hopkins feels that the "lack of being able to leave campus" contributes to the slump.

Hopkins elaborated, "Sunset is considerably earlier, which means it is more difficult to get off campus - especially if you have afternoon classes - and you can't stay off campus as long."

She commented, "many

students living in BBR find themselves accidentally not leaving the building for days on end."

Senior Elena Ehrlich summarized the cause of Second Trimester Slump as "the lack of being outside in general."

Senior students have varied advice on how to combat "Second Trimester Slump" for juniors.

Senior JP Rickabaugh advises "Control the weather and how much work your teachers give you! Just kidding. My point is that you can't make second trimester suck any less, but you can try and balance it with fun."

Others have a different outlook on how to view Second Trimester.

According to senior Chloe Fang, "the key phrase is a positive attitude - if you think second trimester is going to be rough, it will be even worse.

The less you focus on how bad it will be, the better off your perspective of second trimester will be."

For juniors, the upcoming months may be the toughest period of high school years.

For seniors, the increased workload and cold weather are known experiences, but college applications are an added ordeal that may make second trimester difficult yet again.

Most college application deadlines for regular decision applications are on January 1, right in the heart of second trimester. Luckily, there are long breaks during November and December during which seniors can complete these.

Regardless, students will emerge from "Second Trimester Slump" with the knowledge that they overcame their obstacles and will be able to look forward to the friendly face of the third trimester.