

VE-Day Plans

Thanksgiving and Rejoicing to Be Keynotes of Celebrations in City

As total victory in Europe looms—VE-Day—the plans of Toronto civic, regulations and business leaders are complete in nearly all details which are needed to make it both a day of thanksgiving and of rejoicing.

As a final precaution, it was announced yesterday by Liquor Commissioner W. G. Webster that on the national holiday proclaimed by the Federal Government to mark the close of the European war, all liquor stores, wine shops and brewers' retail stores and depots will be closed.

Judge W. T. Robb, chairman of Liquor Authority Control Board of Ontario, has also announced that on the national holiday no beer or wine may be sold in any premises.

The plans of civic officials for celebrations at nine city parks are geared so that they may be adjusted to an announcement from Europe early in the morning or late at night. In any event, the civic service of praise and thanksgiving in front of City Hall will take place the day following announcement of European victory.

Churches to be Open

Churches of all denominations are planning to remain open all day for those who wish to give thanks through prayers for the end of European conflict, and who wish to add prayers for a speedy end to the war in the Pacific. Every one of the nine park ceremonies will feature prayers and a thanksgiving ceremony near the start of the proceedings.

Stores, war plants and other businesses are planning to close on the day following announcement of victory, although many stores are also planning to close early in the day if the announcement is made in the morning. Business men are expecting that the following day will be the one chosen by the Federal Government as a national holiday.

If victory news should come late Friday, however, it is likely that the food retail stores will remain open for part of Saturday at least, in order that no families will go hungry over the week-end.

Programs Split

The ceremonies in the parks have been arranged for afternoon and evening, and in some cases even for the morning. The daytime programs will have entertainment for the children as an important function. If the announcement of victory comes early in the morning—say a few hours after midnight—the full schedule will be held that day.

If, on the other hand, the announcement comes through about 5 p.m. the evening celebrations, complete with fireworks, will be held. The daytime part of the program will then continue the next day.

Bonfires, parades, community singing, entertainers, games for the

children, bands and music and street dancing, will be part of the celebrations. There will be a "sunrise service" of thanksgiving at 9 o'clock in the morning at both Sunnyside and High Park. It is planned that fireworks will be set off simultaneously at 10 in the evening at all parks throughout the city.

The parks at which the celebrations will be held are: High Park, Sunnyside, Earls court, Willowvale, Trinity, Riverdale, Greenwood, Lake Front Park at the beach and Eglinton Park.

The full T.T.C. supervisory staff will be on duty for VE-Day, and street cars will be carefully rerouted in the downtown areas if any congestion is threatened at any point there.

Civic officials are hoping that the celebrations planned for the parks will help avoid large crowds of people downtown, believing that the programs planned will be crowd-pleasers. They are urging people to listen to the radio once victory is announced, on which the city will broadcast its plans for celebration.

Police arrangements to fit in with the civic plans have been arranged, and the force now has its instruction for the celebrations. All available men will be used.

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