

# SESQUICENTENNIAL

150 years of Canadian Confederation, 150 songs. Explore by year and learn more about the glorious, mysterious, and tragic past of our country.

1867-1876	1887-1896	1907-1916	1927-1936	1947-1956	1967-1976	1987-1996	2007-2016
1877-1886	1897-1906	1917-1926	1937-1946	1957-1966	1977-1986	1997-2006	
1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
		1965	1966				

## BORN WILD, DIE WILD (1958)

In 1958 London Ontario's Public Utilities Commission undertook the construction of a major area attraction: Storybook Gardens. One of the premiere attractions was to be a pair of sea lions, who stood at the ready while construction on the park was completed. However, a faulty fence allowed one of the sea lions to escape. Dubbed "Slippery" by a gasping press corps, the intrepid pinniped managed to get into the Thames River and make it as far as Sandusky Ohio (400km away), all the while being pursued by reporters and local authorities. He was eventually shot with a tranquilizer gun while sleeping in a boat house and returned to London to a joyous crowd of fifty thousand people.

London took a significant financial risk in building Storybook Gardens, so much so that some people suspect that the story of Slippery was a conspiracy designed to draw attention to the park. The Toledo Ohio zoo did stage a phony custody dispute after capturing Slippery, which only added to the furor. If the whole thing was a setup it worked very well indeed. Today a children's waterpark at the site bears Slippery's name.

London Ontario does indeed sit upon its very own river Thames, one of many attempts to recreate the old country in the new world.

If this works I'm making a million.  
And if it doesn't you'll find me in the Thames with rocks  
in my pockets.

We give him everything he needs, but he's still unhappy.  
We give him everything he wants, but he remains un-  
grateful.

Laugh! You take me from my home...  
Kept me on my own.  
Fed me the wrong fish.

Sea lions are social creatures, not well suited to isolation. Though Slippery did have a companion, quickly named "Lonesome".

Slippery was a wild sea lion, captured off the coast of California.

I'll catch the scraps that you throw my way.  
But I'll never be yours.  
No, I'll never be yours.  
'Cause I was born wild.  
And I'll die wild.  
This cage can only hold me for a little while.  
I'd go back to California if only I could see how.

Slippery's route was, in fact, correctly plotted to wind up back in his home of California. One wonders if he somehow could have made it if left unmolested.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE SONG](#)

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE PODCAST](#)

## MY NOTES

Some things here about the song and my deep emotional state whilst making it and whatever other wonderful things I can conjure up to make it interesting to the reader/listener.

## FURTHER READING

One or more links to various places where people can read more. With short descriptions.