

Stamp exhibition slated for Toronto

Canada Post and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada will co-sponsor an international philatelic youth exhibition, entitled *Canada 82*, to be held May 20-24, 1982 in Toronto.

"I welcome the opportunity of having Canada Post work with the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, so that together we can further the interest of our youth in the fascinating world of stamp collecting and develop the junior collector through the challenge of national and international class competitions," said Postmaster-General André Ouellet in making the announcement.

Since 1969, the International Youth Commission of the Fédération Internationale Philatélique (FIP) has designated a member country to host this exhibition, which takes place every two years. Luxembourg, Norway, France, Bulgaria and the Netherlands have hosted past exhibitions, attracting thousands of young people as well as a number of adults who are interested in stamp collecting.

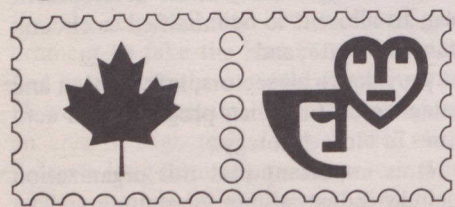
First outside Europe

This will be the first international philatelic youth exhibition to be held outside continental Europe. It will feature stamp displays by postal administrations from around the world as well as educational exhibits of general interest.

To commemorate the exhibition, Canada Post plans to issue specially designed souvenir sheets of postage stamps.

Canada Post suggests that young collectors and junior stamp clubs start planning their exhibits. They will have many opportunities to participate by exhibiting in the international as well as the national classes of competition.

Canada 82



INTERNATIONAL
PHILATELIC
YOUTH
EXHIBITION

L'EXPOSITION
PHILATÉLIQUE
MONDIALE
DE LA JEUNESSE

Convention centres down east

Two Maritime cities will receive federal financing totalling \$5.5 million to build downtown convention centre-hotel developments.

Halifax and Charlottetown will get a share of the \$15 million the federal government sets aside annually to help cities build convention centres.

In Charlottetown a \$3.8-million grant for the construction of a \$28.2-million complex was announced by federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Herb Gray.

Labour Minister Gerald Regan said the federal cabinet had approved a \$2.75-million contribution towards construction of Nova Scotia Place, a cultural and convention facility.

Cramped convention space and hotel accommodations have kept Maritime cities out of the bidding for large conventions, and officials in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are optimistic the market will be big enough to support centres in both provincial capitals.

In fact, conventions for both centres have already been booked in advance of construction. The Charlottetown facility, being built by the private investment group of Dale Corporation, will house a 15,160-square-foot convention floor, 200-room hotel with a world-class rating, squash, tennis and racquetball courts, and an Olympic-size pool. Plans for the Halifax project are in the preliminary stages, but Mayor Ron Wallace said the publicly-owned centre, to cost \$11 million would double the city's convention space.

Speedskater wins title

Speedskater Benoit Baril of Quebec City recently won the men's World Short Track Championship held in Neudon-La-Forêt, France.

The 20-year-old unseated defending champion Gaetan Boucher in the 11-country event. Baril finished with 12 points, Boucher placed second with eight points. Louis Baril, Benoit's brother was fourth with six points.

Louise Begin of Quebec City placed third in the women's over-all crown with seven points. The event was the first officially-recognized short track championship and 110 skaters from 11 countries participated.

Rare reptile romance

A love match may be in the offing, if a distance of hundreds of kilometres and other uncertainties can be overcome to bring two rare gavials together, reports the *Canadian Press*.

Only four gavials are known to exist in North America — two males in Picton near Belleville, Ontario and two females in the southern United States.

Described as an extremely endangered species, the gavial is a crocodile-like creature with a long, slender snout somewhat resembling a baton. It was once a flourishing reptile from India, a hunter of fish in swift rivers, but its numbers have declined to eight or nine in all of the Western Hemisphere.

The Reptile Breeding Foundation in Picton, which acquired its two males in 1972, is eager to lend them to the Atlanta Zoo in Georgia, which has one female on hand and another available on loan from a Florida park.

The males would go to the females, says Tom Huff, director of the Picton foundation. "They have (in Atlanta) the best facilities to breed the animals in captivity, and we will send ours along if we can obtain the proper permit.

"To my knowledge, no gavials have been bred in captivity before. But I think they can be."

Transport of such creatures across borders is governed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and requires special permits.

Rare species

"As a species, the gavial is "one of the rarest on the face of the earth. I doubt there are more than 50 of them left in the world," said Mr. Huff.

If a breeding loan is made with the Atlanta Zoo, the foundation will receive half the offspring. It acquired the two males, both about two metres long, from private individuals in the United States, for about \$5,000 each.

In Atlanta, zoo curator Howard Hunt is equally enthusiastic about a love match. "It's ridiculous to have two males in Canada and two females down here and not get them together," he said.

If a long-term success can be made of gavial breeding, Mr. Huff said the foundation probably would arrange for some future mates to return to the wilds of India as well as to zoos across the country.