

News briefs

Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan recently led his Progressive Conservative Party to another provincial election victory. Standings in the new legislature, compared to the 1978 results are: Progressive Conservative, 37 (34 in 1978); Liberal Party, 13 (15); New Democratic Party, 1 (2) and independent 1 (1).

Health and Welfare Canada has approved a grant of \$375,000 for the Canadian National Cancer Institute for its study of screening for breast cancer. The five-year project will receive a total \$2.5 million from the department. Screening centres have already been established in Toronto, Hamilton, Quebec, Montreal and Winnipeg. Others will open in London and Ottawa and in Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia within a year. Under the program, some 90,000 volunteers will receive annual clinical and X-ray examinations for five years.

Two Canadian sailors recently won the International 14 world sailing championship held in Annapolis, Maryland. Frank McLaughlin and John Millen, both of Toronto, sailed to finishes of fourth,



Steven Dodson, a physics teacher from North Bay, peers into his award-winning mobile telescope. His invention won a prize for mechanical excellence and original design in August at Stellafane, the world's largest astronomical fair in Vermont. Dodson's 56-centimetre (22-inch) diameter telescope is probably the largest mobile telescope in Canada. A 20-centimetre diameter telescope took first prize in the junior competition of the same fair for Dave Penchuk of Ottawa.

tenth and third in three races to take the championship. McLaughlin, 21, and Millen, 20, were among the youngest teams in the regatta which featured races of 14-foot-long sail boats.

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced that an additional \$2 million is being made available to extend the services of existing Outreach projects, and to fund new projects for women and disabled persons. Outreach is a program that extends employment-related services to people who, for one reason or another, are unable to benefit from the services of Canada Employment Centres. Besides women and disabled persons, Outreach target groups include Native people, inmates and ex-inmates and people in remote communities.

The Canadian International Development Agency has signed an agreement with the Urban Transportation Development Corporation of Toronto, to carry out a study on urban transit in Cairo, Egypt. The Urban Transportation Development Corporation will receive a \$250,000 grant to direct a study team composed of the Toronto, Montreal and Calgary transit commissions and two firms — Lavalin International Incorporated and Phaneuf, Gravelle, Blain and Associates.

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has announced plans for a Canada-wide promotion of Canadian wines, cheeses and flowers in November. Agriculture Canada will finance the promotion jointly with the Canadian Wine Institute, Canadian cheese manufacturers and Flowers Canada. The Canadian Federation of Chefs de Cuisine and the Dairy Bureau of Canada will also lend their expertise to this promotion.

De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited, Toronto and General Motors of Canada Limited, Oshawa, Ontario have received contracts from Australian companies. De Havilland received a \$37.6-million order for eight DASH-8 aircraft and GM received a \$30.7-million contract to provide 25 Titan trucks to the Australian companies of Blackwood Hodge Pty.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced the signing of a \$5-million (U.S.) line of credit agreement with Bank Hapoalim B.M. of Israel. The line of credit is intended to assist Canadian exporters competing for sales in Israel by providing the Israeli buyer with a simple and easily accessible credit facility through Bank Hapoalim B.M.

Minister of Communications Francis Fox recently led a Canadian delegation to a cultural conference held by the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation in Cotonou, Benin. The Conference of Ministers of Culture was the first such conference organized by the agency at the ministerial level. The conference provided member countries with an opportunity to compare their cultural policies and to prepare an action program. Delegates from New Brunswick and Quebec also participated in the conference.

The British Columbia government will receive \$6 million from the federal government towards a feasibility study evaluating the use of compressed natural gas as a transportation fuel. The study is expected to be completed in five years. Compressed natural gas is an attractive form of energy in the transportation sector because natural gas is plentiful in Canada relative to oil. It is also an excellent internal combustion engine fuel that provides extended engine life, good fuel economy and easy cold weather starting. In addition, it is less polluting and tends to be cheaper than oil on an equivalent energy basis.

An Ottawa doctor has identified a nagging new ailment that is sweeping the country. Dr. Douglas Waugh calls it "cuber's thumb" and it afflicts those who have become addicted to a puzzle called Rubik's Cube. The cube is a small multi-coloured series of connecting panels that can be rotated. The aim of the game is to make each side of the cube one colour. In the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Dr. Waugh has reported that turning the cube with the thumb can cause an injury that he describes as "a localized, exquisitely tender swelling on the volar surface of the left metacarpophalangeal joint". In other words a sore thumb.

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