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Transportation year-end review

New air routes between Canada and the United States, a go-ahead for a short-take-off-and-landing (STOL) aircraft service and a major revision to Canada's shipping laws were highlights of a crowded calendar year for the Ministry of Transport in 1973.

Everything from studies for nuclear-powered icebreakers to 300 mph trains and airport projections to the year 2000 were being discussed as 1974 was being ushered in.

Pollution, ecology, environmental planning — words of the Seventies — were in the forefront and programmed into new legislation affecting the lives of all Canadians whether they travel by sea, air or surface routes.

Canada and the U.S. established 47 new air routes between the two countries in the largest such agreement in the history of the world civil aviation. In a major policy announcement, the Ministry also defined new international civil aviation guidelines to "divide the world" between Canada's two main air carriers.

On the operational side, the Canadian Coast Guard Ship *John Cabot* performed the deepest sea rescue mission in maritime history on September 5, 160 miles southwest of Cork, Ireland, when it hoisted the mini-submarine *Pisces III* that had lain for three days 1,500 feet deep on the ocean floor.

A STOL experimental service was approved between Montreal and Ottawa to go into operation next spring for a two-year period. The aircraft, designed for operation on short runways, together with a special avionics system, may solve the problem of quickly transporting travellers from the centre of one city to another.

A \$3.7-million program to improve and expand air-navigation aids in the North was initiated in 1973.

On July 23 the Federal Government and the Government of British Columbia undertook jointly to develop railways, ports and resources at a cost of \$325 million. The agreement includes the



Ministry of Transport photo

The Twin Otter short-take-off-and-landing aircraft, which will be used in a two-year experimental service between Ottawa and Montreal, flies over the nation's capital.

building of five railway lines and a large-scale port development at Prince Rupert.

Shipping laws

Major maritime legislation and policy were announced in July with the tabling of a bill to revise Canada's shipping laws. The new Maritime Code Act recognizes the substantial increase in the use of water transport in Canada for both commercial and recreational purposes. It also recognizes the need for protection of the rights of all Canadians with respect to the economic, sociological and environmental results of that expanded use.

In another important maritime statement, the Federal Government decided to withdraw from the British Commonwealth Merchant Shipping Agreement and reserve Canadian coastal shipping to Canadian flat vessels. Safeguards will be built into the implementation of the decision to safeguard the economies of the Atlantic Provinces.