

News briefs

Francophones starting their own small business in Ontario should find it easier with the new guidebook launched recently by the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade. *Fondation d'une petite entreprise en Ontario* clearly explains, in 130 pages, the essentials of getting started in business. It is based on interviews with more than 2 000 entrepreneurs during their planning stages of starting a small business. "The book outlines how to start your own business properly — and what programs are available once you get going," said Gord Walker, Minister of Industry and Trade. The English version, *Starting a Small Business in Ontario*, was first issued in 1978. To date, 170 000 copies have been printed.

There are 694 telephones for every 1 000 Canadians, a total exceeded only by Sweden, the United States and Switzerland, latest comparisons from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development indicate. Sweden has 828 telephones per 1 000 people.

Ontario is on target in its drive to double exports by 1987, according to Industry and Trade Minister Gord Walker who recently announced that in 1982 the province had export sales of nearly \$37 billion — up from \$34 billion in 1981. That's on the target he set a year ago to increase exports to \$60 billion within the next five years. The 1982 sales growth helped in part to bring down Ontario's trade deficit in manufactured goods from \$9 billion to less than \$5 billion, the minister added.

Only five countries outrank Canada when it comes to real standards of living, latest comparisons from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) show. Those countries with a higher output per capita than Canada are Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and the United States. Last year, in the same comparison of all 24 members of the OECD, Canada stood twelfth. This gain for Canada is due, in part, to changes in the currency exchange rates.

Advance information revenue freight traffic handled by railways in Canada in 1982 totalled 212.5 million tonnes, down 13.8 per cent from the 1981 level, Statistics Canada reports. Domestic loadings fell 13.3 per cent to 200.0 million tonnes, while receipts from United States connections decreased 20.8 per cent to 12.9 million tonnes.

Telepathic tabby has tale to tell



Bruno Schlumberger, The Citizen

The markings are right, so are the single black whisker and the surgical scar, so the Boisvenu family of Rockland, just outside Ottawa, Ontario is positive Babiche the cat has found his way back from Montreal.

Although it took more than a year, Babiche's owners say the messages of love they felt for their pet must have led him the 195 kilometres home.

"He never died in our minds," said owner France Boisvenu.

"I think cats are good at telepathy. We missed him so much and he probably picked up the response."

Babiche disappeared about 14 months ago while staying at Boisvenu's mother-in-law's house in Montreal. "No one saw our Babiche," said eight-year-old Stephanie. "I thought he was gone for good."

Recently, while visiting a former neighbour in Ottawa, where the Boisvenu family lived a year ago, Boisvenu saw a cat that looked just like her long-lost Babiche eating grass in the garden.

"My God, it looks just like him, I thought," said Boisvenu.

Stephanie said the cat came to her when she called. The distinct markings, a tiger stripe and a single black whisker, convinced Boisvenu Babiche had come home.

"When I saw him eating that grass I was sure it was him. He used to eat things in the garden, and potato peels."

But the most solid evidence was Babiche's unique way of showing affection.

"He used to caress us by touching his forehead with ours — and that's what he did," Boisvenu said.

Her husband also checked to see if the cat had been neutered, as Babiche was. Sure enough, the marks of the operation were there.

The cat is in good health and has even grown in size. And when they put him in the family van to go to the store, Babiche hightailed it to "his spot" just as he had before he went missing.

"It's like he was never gone," Boisvenu said.

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