

Efforts of weather watchers acknowledged

On the occasion of the proclamation of World Meteorological Day by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on March 23, special tribute was paid to several thousand volunteer severe weather watchers who scan Canada's skies for signs of heavy thunderstorms, hail and tornadoes. The theme of World Meteorological Day this year was "Meteorology and Public Safety".

Environment Minister Suzanne Blais-Grenier said the efforts of the volunteers were vital for the protection of Canadian

lives and livelihoods. She said the volunteers were needed "to tell us about the nature of each individual storm to help regional weather centres keep track of large storm clusters as they cross forecast areas". Their assistance also results in "faster and more accurate issuance of severe weather warnings and alerts", she said.

The weather watch network began in Manitoba in 1977. It now operates in all regions between Quebec and Alberta where most of Canada's severe summer weather

occurs and includes volunteers from every age group and background. Police officers, students, teachers, pensioners and housewives are among those involved.

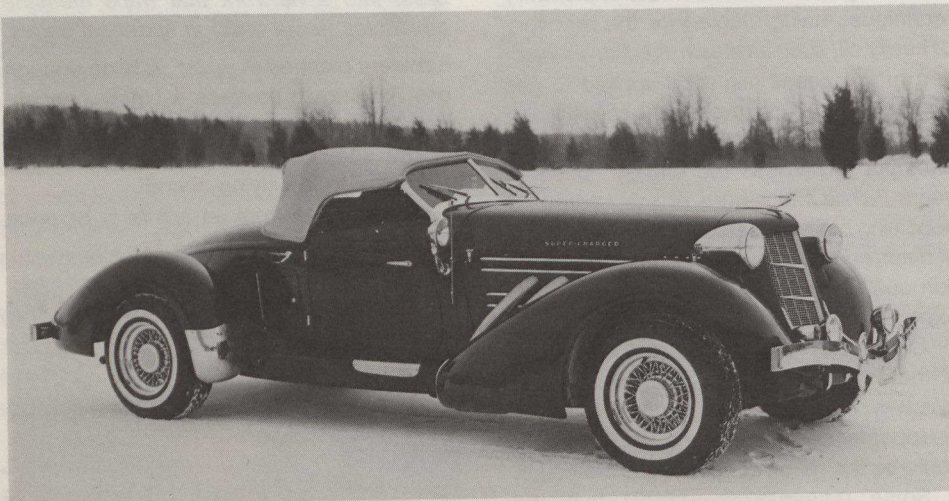
Mrs. Blais-Grenier noted that the Severe Weather Watch Program was the second weather service activity to rely heavily on volunteers. A network of volunteer climate observers has existed in Canada for more than a century.

"It is appropriate to honour all meteorological volunteers on WMO Day because their actions demonstrated the willingness of many Canadians to become personally involved in contributing to better weather information for everyone," she said.

Mrs. Blais-Grenier also paid tribute to the WMO itself, a United Nations agency with 157 member countries. Recognizing that many of the member countries also experience severe weather problems, she said that Canada plays its full share in assisting developing nations through transfer of technology and by participating in major WMO programs such as the World Weather Watch, the World Climate Program, the Research and Development Program and the Education and Training Program.

The minister noted that this year marks the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, but that the WMO and its predecessor, the International Meteorological Organization, has a much longer history. "International co-operation in meteorology is an inspiring model of what can be done when nations contribute their talents and resources to a common purpose," she said.

Replicar's luxury cars in top gear



Replicar's model of the 1935 Auburn two-seater combines the engineering skills of the 1980s with the beauty and grace associated with the original styling.

The manufacture of copies of luxury cars has developed into a highly successful business for a Campbellford, Ontario firm, Replicar Company Limited.

The company, which began operations about four years ago, has grown from sales totalling only \$250 000 in the first two years to surpass \$1 million in 1984. David Carlaw, founder and president of the company, expects sales to reach \$3.5 million this year. He also expects the market, which has been about 95 per cent Canadian, to expand in the United States.

Mr. Carlaw started his business duplicating a 1935 Auburn that had attracted him at a Hershey, Pennsylvania car show in 1972 and had cost \$150 000.

In addition to manufacturing copies of the Auburn, Mr. Carlaw's company currently duplicates the sporty 1952 MG-TD. More recently the company added a gullwing Mercedes-Benz, originally made between 1954 and 1957, to its line-up.

The vehicles are made by hand and it takes approximately 450 man-hours to

produce an Auburn, 50 for an MG and an estimated 400 hours for a Mercedes.

The company currently averages one Auburn and ten MGs a month. But Mr. Carlaw expects that once the company is in full production, it will be able to produce about ten Mercedes every month.

"Each car is personally built for the individual," said Mr. Carlaw. If a customer wants a special colour, a certain type of leather interior, monogrammed initials or special tires, the car will have it. Car bodies are built with glass fibre and aluminum for protection against rust.

Retail prices for the cars vary according to the amount of labour required: the MG retails for about \$15 000; the Auburn two-seater retails for \$41 500 and the four-seater for \$46 500.

It is expected that the Mercedes will sell for about \$50 000.

About 10 per cent of Replicar's current business comes from leasing. About 25 per cent of the Mercedes' business is expected to be leasing.

Locomotives for Indonesia

Minister for External Relations Monique Vézina has announced the purchase of 15 Canadian-made General Motors locomotives for Indonesia.

Financing for the contract with General Motors of Canada Limited, valued at \$22 million, was made through an existing loan from the Canadian International Development Agency. The locomotives, along with spare parts and tools will be built at GM's plant in London, Ontario and will be delivered to the Department of Communications in Indonesia over the next 12 to 15 months.

The locomotives are part of a major energy project on the island of Sumatra and will be used to haul coal from the Bukit Asam mine to coal-fired electric generating plants on the coast. The rail cars carrying the coal were built by Hawker-Siddeley Canada Inc. and financed by the Export Development Corporation.