
Vancouver raises the roof over first domed stadium

Canada's first fully-covered multi-purpose stadium passed the acid test when the teflon-coated roof was raised into position at the British Columbia Place amphitheatre in November.

The fibreglass roof rose above the concrete walls like a giant mushroom cap as 16 electrical fans increased the air pressure inside the stadium to inflate the suspended apparatus. The roof, covering four hectares, rose 24 metres above the walls and 60 metres from field level.

The inflation process, which took less than two hours, was viewed by more than 3 000 guests inside the stadium. Thousands more watched from outside.

"This is a great day for British Columbia," said Premier Bill Bennett. "This is the most outstanding building of its kind in North America. That's the only kind of inflation we want in B.C. That's the B.C. spirit."

The air-supported dome, weighing 123 tonnes, is restrained by 22 bridge-strand cables which criss-cross at 121 clamped intersections. The cables also hold the lighting and sound installations.

The electrical fan system, which was operated manually during inflation, will soon be controlled by a computer centre within the stadium.

Mr. Bennett said the covered stadium, which will officially be named in the

spring, was the centrepiece of the major downtown redevelopment plan.

"This is a much larger development than just a stadium," the premier said in reference to a light rapid transit system and Vancouver hosting Expo '86. "The economic benefits could top \$1 billion in future years."

Environment Minister Stephen Rogers, the provincial minister responsible for the B.C. Place development, said officials were confident the stadium would be ready for use by the target date of July 1, 1983.

The stadium will come in on budget at \$111.4 million and will seat 60 000 for major sporting events. Workers are installing individual seats at the rate of 10 000 a month.

Financing of the project is being shared by the provincial and federal governments, along with the private sector.

Vancouver will host Soccer Bowl '83 for the North American Soccer League championship and also the 1983 Grey Cup for the Canadian Football League title.

The stadium is one of the three largest air-supported fabric domes in the world, the others being the Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan.



Roof covers 60 000-seat stadium over ten acres and weighs 123 tonnes.

Nuclear industry good prospects

Long term prospects for the Canadian nuclear industry are favourable, according to the *Nuclear Industry Review* released by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Nuclear power is the most economical choice for new electricity generation in many parts of Canada today and the country will need an industry capable of building new reactors in the 1990s, the review concludes. Government initiatives may be required to preserve manufacturing capacity over the next few years until domestic demand is sufficient to sustain it.

Despite the current downturn in demand, CANDU remains economically attractive both for domestic and some export markets. The review points out that both markets support a high-technology Canadian industry with positive spin-offs for potential technological developments and industrial activity.

Although the review observes that there has been criticism from some quarters that Canada's stringent safeguards requirements are an impediment to sales, it notes that the government believes these safeguards to be a requirement before export, and proposes that the present policy be maintained.

Hostel for sick children

A "Ronald McDonald" house will be built in Ottawa to lodge out-of-town relatives of sick children being treated at local hospitals, according to McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Ltd. representative Carol Vani.

The plan calls for McDonald's to donate a fixed amount, which is not yet known, then help co-ordinate efforts to raise the rest of the money in the community.

An 11-member committee of parents and staff from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and McDonald's has been set up to oversee fund-raising, site selection and construction. The house would contain about 12 bedrooms and construction could start as early as this summer. Preference would be given to relatives of children suffering from cancer-related diseases.

There are similar McDonald's houses in Halifax and Montreal, and others under construction in Vancouver and Winnipeg.