

News briefs

The all-party committee on parliamentary reform is expected to suggest new methods of choosing the House of Commons Speaker in its next report, said a member of the committee, New Democratic House leader Ian Deans recently. The Speaker plays the important role of presiding over sittings of the House of Commons and ruling on procedural disputes. Technically, members of Parliament elect one of their peers as Speaker, but often in a majority government the Speaker is the prime minister's choice.

Federal Finance Minister Marc Lalonde has invited the provincial finance ministers to meet with him in Ottawa on December 17 to discuss economic forecasts for the coming year and exchange views on general fiscal policy. Mr. Lalonde said the conference would be a "working session" to allow ministers to exchange opinions and to ensure they were not working at cross-purposes in their respective budgets.

Canadian General Electric Co. Ltd. of Toronto has opened a new plant in Bromont, Quebec, that will make turbine blades and vanes for the F-18 fighter plane for the Canadian Armed Forces. The federal government in Ottawa ordered 138 of the jets in 1980.



Paul Latour, The Citizen

Carleton University biology student Drew Hoysak checks a thermometer as part of his project on redwing blackbirds that spend part of the year in this marsh near Mooney's Bay, Ottawa. His study includes such data as vegetation, water depth and water temperatures.

The Ontario government will contribute \$100 million as its share of the federal government's New Employment Expansion and Development (NEED) program. The federal government is contributing \$130 million as its share of the NEED program in Ontario which is expected to create some 17 000 jobs in the province. Ontario's share will be targeted in the areas with the highest unemployment, such as Sudbury, Windsor and Hamilton.

Montreal's Olympic paddling basin has been chosen as the site of the 1986 world canoe championships by the International Canoe Federation which met in East Berlin recently. Executive director of the Canadian Canoe Association Richard Munro said details of the event would be announced early next year. He added that the championship would involve only flat water sprinting and that facilities at the basin, used for recent Canadian and other championships, were excellent.

Canada's first "no-name" red wine is selling well in both British Columbia and Ontario since it was introduced into the market 15 months ago. Marketing manager for Andres Wines Limited Eric Morham said it had become the fourth-largest-selling red table wine in British Columbia. It was made available in Ontario in November and store checks indicate the wine is selling rapidly and managers of mini wine stores in supermarkets have asked for their supplies to be increased. The cost is \$3 for a 750-millilitre bottle and \$6 for 1.5 litres in Ontario liquor stores.

Blair Howell, who has been confined to a wheelchair since he injured his spinal cord moving furniture ten years ago, has recently completed the 7 360 kilometre trip across Canada from Vancouver, British Columbia to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia in his wheelchair. It took 30 weeks to complete the fund-raising marathon which netted some \$45 000 for the Canadian Paraplegic Association. The trip came to an end when Mr. Howell dumped a jar of Pacific Ocean water into the Atlantic Ocean from the highest point of the MacDonald Bridge, which links Halifax and Dartmouth.

Canadian pair skaters Barbara Underhill of Oshawa, Ontario and Paul Martini, of Woodbridge, Ontario rose from second place in a recent international meet in Tokyo to win the pairs title. Another Canadian pair, Donna Martini of Woodbridge and John Coyne of Toronto, finished sixth. Neil Peterson of North Vancouver placed eighth in the men's singles event.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) and the Bank of Nova Scotia recently signed a \$1.77-million (US) financing agreement to support a sale by Bombardier Incorporated of Montreal to Chile. The agreement is an allocation under the EDC-Bank of Nova Scotia line of credit agreement with Banco de Chile to support the \$2.12-million (Cdn) sale of five diesel locomotive engines, turbochargers, repair kits and other locomotive components to Ferrocarriles del Estado, the state-owned railway of Chile. It is the second allocation under the line of credit, which was signed November 25, 1980, and brings to \$1.84 million (US) the amount allocated to date.

Casey Copter Accessories Limited of Dorval, Quebec has received an order valued at \$633 318 (US) from Canadian Commercial Corporation, for the supply of heaters to the US Army. The heaters, a proprietary product Casey Copter manufactures, are scheduled for delivery in 1983. They will be used in OH58 helicopters operated by the US Army Guard. The order represents the largest single sale by the firm to date.

Percy Williams, who became world 100-metre champion in 1928, died at his home recently. He was 74. Williams, who represented Canada at the 1928 and 1932 Olympics, was presented with the Order of Canada two years ago. In 1950, he was voted outstanding Canadian track and field performer in the previous 50 years by a Canadian Press poll. Williams won the race in 10.8 seconds. His win was so unexpected that the medal presentation was delayed while a Canadian flag was found. The following day, he won the 200-metre race in 21.8 seconds and is the only Canadian to win both races at the Olympics.

Canada Weekly is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticias de Canadá.

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.

Canada

ISSN 0384-2312