

Cousteau finds salt-water lake

A unique salt-water "lake" with frigid, Arctic-like waters has been discovered by underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau under the Saguenay River in Quebec.

Captain Cousteau, who was exploring the river as part of a film he is making on the St. Lawrence River in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada, said he had found "a little Arctic Ocean under a river".

He was accompanied by his son, Jean-Michel, who explained that the Saguenay is deep — 180 metres (about 600 feet) — but only the top 12 or 15 metres (40 or 50 feet) is made up of fresh water emptying into the St. Lawrence. Underneath lies the cold, salt-water lake with its own environment, kept in place by a "geological dam".

The Saguenay is a fjord, bounded on either side by spectacular cliffs, and Jean-Michel Cousteau said that to get to the "lake", he went down one of the cliff faces in a diving saucer.

Going through the fresh water of the Saguenay was like going through "coca-cola and then through chocolate". Visibility was about a metre (about 3 feet) and the water temperature varied between 10 and 13 degrees Celsius (50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit).

Then, all of a sudden, visibility increased to eight to ten metres (26 to 33 feet) and the water temperature plummeted to one degree Celsius (34 degrees Fahrenheit). "The water was nearly clear and supercharged with nutrients. We saw big shrimps and little shrimps and cod hiding under rocks," he said.

Captain Cousteau said he was amazed by the richness of marine life he found in the St. Lawrence and the Gulf. He and his crew began their project this summer with visits to Sable Island, Halifax and Newfoundland.

He said Newfoundland fishermen have encountered whales becoming caught in their nets because they are placing their nets much further out than they used to. The whales have not learned to avoid the nets yet, but they will learn, he said.

He reported that the crew of his boat, the *Calypso*, freed one whale found caught in a fishing net. It appeared grateful and played with crew members for a while before swimming away, even allowing a man to ride its back for 20 minutes and clean out its blowhole.

Canada's first female mayor — Charlotte Whitton

The first female mayor of a Canadian city, Charlotte Whitton was well-known for her energetic stances on many issues and for her concern for the problems of young people, the elderly, and the disadvantaged.

Five years after her death, the manuscript division of the National Archives has organized Miss Whitton's papers. The collection includes correspondence, reports, manuscripts and printed material relating to Whitton's careers as social worker, freelance writer, and municipal politician. The papers contain important material on the early development of child and family welfare as well as the professionalization of social work during the 1920s and 1930s. The collection also has material on women, municipal government, and the history of the Ottawa Valley.

Whitton grew up in Renfrew, Ontario, and attended Queen's University in Kingston from 1914 to 1918. After obtaining degrees in arts and education, she accepted a position in Toronto with the Social Service Council of Canada as assistant secretary to Thomas Low, Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Headed welfare council

During this time she worked, on a volunteer basis, for the new Canadian Council

on Child Welfare. After Low's defeat in 1926, Whitton became the first executive director of the Council. During the depression years Whitton prepared several reports for the federal government on unemployment relief (1932) and the alleviation of distress (1937). The collection includes notes and drafts of her reports as well as contemporary printed material often annotated by Miss Whitton.

Miss Whitton's political career began after she delivered a speech in Montreal in which she lamented the lack of female politicians. The *Ottawa Journal* challenged her to run for office. Whitton campaigned for, and won, the position of controller on Ottawa City Council. When Mayor Goodwin died in 1951, Whitton became the first female mayor of a Canadian city. She won two more terms in 1952 and 1954.

Her constituents continued to re-elect her as an alderman until 1972, when she was seriously injured in an unfortunate accident in her home which left her unable to continue in politics.

By the time she retired, Miss Whitton had won numerous awards and honours for her activities in public life. Among these were membership in the Order of the British Empire (1934) and the Order of Canada (1967). Charlotte Whitton died in Ottawa on January 25, 1975.



The unveiling in March 1955 at the House of Commons of a bust of Agnes McPhail, the first woman member of Parliament (1921). Left to right: Margaret Aiken, member of Parliament; Charlotte Whitton, mayor of Ottawa; Cairine Wilson, senator; and Ellen Fairclough, Secretary of State.