

### West Coast gets second hovercraft

Minister of Supply and Services Jean-Pierre Goyer announced recently that an SRN-6 hovercraft had been purchased from the British Hovercraft Corporation for the Canadian Coast Guard. The cost of the hovercraft was \$925,000 in Canadian funds. In addition, three pieces of ground-support equipment were purchased from the company at a price of \$6,870.

The craft is to be used for search-and-rescue work on the West Coast. After delivery, it will be equipped by contractors on the West Coast with special Coast Guard navigation and radio equipment. The new acquisition will supplement the present Coast Guard SRN-5 hovercraft, which has been operating along the West Coast for some time.

### Place-names reflect people's choice

*Marcus Van Steen, writing in Canadian Scene, tells the story of how Wawa and other towns got their names:*

Far back in the misty dawning of this country, an Ojibway family stood on the northern shore of Lake Superior and watched and listened to the flocks of Canada geese winging over the lake and passing northward. "Wawa" was their cry, and Wawa was the name given to the place which is on one of the main migration routes of the beautiful big birds.

The name remained, and was adopted by the white settlers, who also were impressed by the flocks of migrating geese. However, when the area became the centre of mining activity, some officials decided it would be a good idea to rename the town in honour of the president of the local mining com-

pany, Sir James Dunn. So the town became Jamestown, officially. However, the citizens rejected this descent from the distinctive to the ordinary and refused to accept the new name. They addressed their mail Wawa, even though the name on their post office said "Jamestown". They bought railway tickets to Wawa even though the name on the station was clearly "Jamestown". Finally, officialdom gave way and the name of the town is now officially what its citizens had always called it, Wawa.

In the heart of the town there is a large, beautiful statue of the Canada goose from whose migrating call the town gets its name.

There are other towns in Canada where the citizens had to insist on retaining a well-loved and familiar

name. Sometimes the campaign goes on for years. In the case of Flesherton, Ontario, the debate raged for almost a century.

That particular part of Grey County, south of Georgian Bay, had been pioneered by W.K. Flesher, and the community that eventually grew up was naturally named Flesherton. However, in a glow of classical enthusiasm in 1822, the town fathers decided that "Flesherton" was too common and they decided to rename it "Artemisia", in honour of the Greek huntress goddess. The name did not appeal to the citizens, most of whom could neither spell it nor say it properly. But it was many years before that bit of artificiality was dropped, and the town reverted to its more natural, more meaningful and far more comfortable Flesherton.

### News briefs

- Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson will visit Mexico from April 24-28 at the personal invitation of Mexican Foreign Minister Licenciado Santiago Roel Garcia to discuss informally relations between the two countries and mutual international questions.
- Mr. Jamieson will arrive in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S., on April 28 for two days, where he will deliver an address on Canada/U.S. relations and meet with business and government leaders of the southeastern United States.
- Nova Scotia Finance Minister Peter Nicholson brought in a balanced budget aimed at reducing the highest unemployment since the depression years. It included large tax increases on tobacco products, wines and spirits. The record \$12-billion budget forecasts a modest net revenue surplus of \$92,000 for 1977-78 after applying \$38 million to sinking fund instalment for debt retirement.
- The export tax on petroleum products to the U.S. increased effective April 1. The tax on middle distillates, which includes such products as home-heating oil, will increase by \$1.25 a barrel to \$4.25. Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie said the changes result from a decline in the value of the Canadian dollar in terms of U.S. funds. Other

Government energy sources say another reason for the higher taxes is to discourage the shipment of products refined from domestic crude oil.

- The Federal Government recently introduced legislation to give the provinces power to regulate communications within their own boundaries, but retained ultimate control of the medium in the federal sphere. A provision for negotiated transfers of regulatory power to the provinces is contained in the wide-ranging telecommunications bill. Some of its provisions expected to be controversial broaden the Cabinet's powers over the CRTC (Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission). The bill would allow provinces to nominate part-time members of the CRTC, but the Cabinet would retain the right of final approval of all nominations.
- Politicians from both sides of the Commons and fisheries officials dismissed, recently, a U.S. Congressional resolution condemning the East Coast seal hunt. Fisheries Minister LeBlanc said outside the Commons that the resolution "contained a considerable number of mis-statements of fact". The resolution said the hunt was a cruel practice and urged its abolition.

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