

Terry Fox joins Order of Canada

Terry Fox, the one-legged runner, who jogged more than half-way across Canada in aid of cancer research, was awarded Canada's highest distinction, the companion of the Order of Canada, in a special ceremony in Vancouver, September 19.

Mr. Fox, whose right leg was amputated in 1977 because of bone cancer, began his "Marathon of Hope" in St. John's, Newfoundland in April. He was recently forced to cancel his run near Thunder Bay, Ontario when doctors diagnosed secondary cancer in his lungs (see *Canada Weekly* dated September 24).

Because of the runner's illness, Governor-General Edward Schreyer flew to Vancouver to invest Mr. Fox, 22, as the youngest companion of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Fox said in a letter to the Canadian Cancer Society explaining his motive for a cross-country run: "The people in cancer clinics all over the world need people who believe in miracles.... I'm not a dreamer and I'm not saying that this will initiate any kind of answer or cure. But I believe in miracles. I have to."

More than \$12.5 million has been donated to the Canadian Cancer Society in his name. This sum includes pledges of \$1 million each from the governments of Ontario and British Columbia as well as hundreds of thousands of individual donations and thousands of accumulated donations from projects undertaken by groups and individuals in his name.

Mr. Fox was recently released from Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, outside of Vancouver, after undergoing chemotherapy intended to arrest the spread of his cancer.

Order of Canada investitures are normally held twice a year but Mr. Schreyer and the council that advises him on selections decided that, because of Mr. Fox's illness and because of his contribution to the country, a special award should be made. The citation reads in part that the special award is being made "because of his outstanding contribution in recent months to the cause of cancer research".

Companion is the highest of three levels in the Order of Canada. The others are Officer and Member. The Order was established in 1967 to recognize outstanding achievement in various fields of human endeavour.

Bell Canada marks centenary

Bell Canada is celebrating its one-hundredth anniversary this year.

Telecommunications have come a long way in the 100 years since the Bell Telephone Company of Canada was incorporated by federal charter on April 29, 1880. The new company was to operate the telephone business throughout Canada and to manufacture telephones and associated equipment.



Blake magneto desk telephone, circa, 1880, contained the transmitter invented in 1878 by Francis Blake, which relayed the voice with an improved clarity over any telephone used before this. The Blake was used in Canada until about 1900.

But not many people had much faith in the telephone. In 1884 one businessman wrote:

"You may accept as a fact that no system of telephony which extends beyond the radius of 20 or 30 miles from any city, however large, will prove a paying investment. For purely commercial or financial interests, the telephone will not come into favour as a medium of direct transmission between large cities."

Run by Canadians

The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was incorporated in 1880 with the idea of having the telephone business run by Canadians for Canadians. The new company took over the telephone licences, plants and goodwill of many of the telephone companies then operating in Canada.

The Bell Telephone Company of Canada made special efforts to improve

equipment and service. As early as 1881 it had exchanges in operation in 40 cities including Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, Hamilton, London, Windsor, Woodstock, Guelph, Brantford, St. Thomas, Cornwall, Saint John, New Brunswick and Halifax. By 1889 there were 6,500 miles of wire and poles erected to provide about 3,670 miles in long distance service.

That year (1889) Bell Company sold its plant in New Brunswick to the newly-formed New Brunswick Telephone Company and also transferred 310 telephones in western Canada to the Victoria and Esquimaux Telephone Company.

The governments of the three prairie provinces took over telephone service from Bell Telephone in the early part of the twentieth century — Manitoba and Alberta in 1908 and Saskatchewan in 1909. Now Bell Canada serves most communities in Ontario and Quebec and the eastern part of the Northwest Territories including Canada's most northerly exchanges at Grise Fiord on Ellesmere Island and Resolute Bay on Cornwallis Island.

By the end of 1880 the new Bell Telephone Company of Canada had 2,100 subscribers. By the beginning of 1980 Bell Canada (it shortened its name in 1966) had close to 5,600,000 subscriber lines on its records and more than nine million telephones in service throughout Ontario, Quebec and parts of the Northwest Territories.

ICAO meets in Montreal

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is holding the twenty-third session of its assembly in Montreal until October 7.

The assembly will adopt the work program of the organization and budget for 1981 to 1983 and elect states to be represented on an enlarged 33-member council.

Delegates for 146 contracting states are reviewing the air transport situation during the past three years and are examining economic and regulatory problems of the industry.

The assembly is expected to endorse various recommendations of the Second Air Transport Conference, held earlier this year, calling for a multilateral approach to international fares and freight rate problems and to the regulation of air service capacity.