

---

## Whoopers want wet weather

Biologists fear extremely dry conditions in the Northwest Territories may endanger whooping cranes left behind in this year's sixth annual airlift of whooping crane eggs which took place this summer.

In the past, biologists involved in the operation to increase the population of the endangered birds worried about the development of eggs transferred to a wildlife refuge in Idaho from Wood Buffalo National Park on the Alberta-Northwest Territories border.

"My concern is more with the eggs left in the nest," says Ernie Kuyt, a Canadian Wildlife Service biologist. "Because of the drought, there may not be sufficient food and there may be increased predation."

He explained that insufficient moisture means the marshes where cranes feed, rest and breed will dry up. Not only will there be a shortage of larvae, frogs and other water life for the birds to feed on, but predators such as wolves will be able to reach the nesting grounds more easily.

---

## Ontario's new lieutenant-governor



John Black Aird will become Ontario's lieutenant-governor on September 10 when Pauline McGibbon retires. Mrs. McGibbon who served a six-year term was the first woman in Canada to be appointed lieutenant-governor. Mr. Aird, 57 and a native of Toronto, has been a lawyer since 1949. He served in the armed forces during the war and was appointed to the Senate by the late Prime Minister Lester Pearson in 1964. Ten years later he resigned his Senate seat and returned to his law practice.

---

## Alcan expands in Australia

The Australian subsidiary of Alcan Aluminum, Alcan Australia, has announced plans to build a third 45,000-ton pot line at its electrolytic process plant in Kurri Kurri, New South Wales.

This expansion project will require financial investments of \$145 million (U.S.) and will bring the plant's annual output to 135,000 tons by 1983. It is expected, however, that partial production will begin by the end of 1982.

The Kurri Kurri factory was built at the end of the Sixties, with an initial 45,000-ton capacity. Construction of a second 45,000-ton pot line is under way and this section should be completely operational by the end of the year.

The Kurri Kurri factory was built to serve the Australian market. However, a portion of second and third phase production will be exported until the domestic market can absorb it. A contract for annual shipments of 24,000 tons has already been signed with Nippon Light Metal Company, a Japanese company. Negotiations for another sales contract are also under way.

It is expected that a major part of the financing for this expansion project will come from a consortium of Australian banks. It will be one of the largest financing programs ever carried out on the Australian market.

---

## Researcher produces harmless antiviral vaccine

A Canadian researcher has successfully produced influenza "virosomes" or harmless biological structures which are absolutely identical, externally to real viruses.

Lise Thibodeau, a post-doctoral researcher at the Institut Armand-Frappier at the Université du Québec in Montreal, discovered the virosomes which bear such a resemblance to the real virus that even the organism's defence mechanisms are fooled: these virosomes make it possible, at last, to produce a synthetic antiviral vaccine that is absolutely harmless. Mrs. Thibodeau has already shown that injecting mice with these virosomes provokes the same immune defence reaction as infection by real viruses.

The researcher says that she has now begun work on the production of German measles virosomes. Success in this project would make it possible for the first time

---

## Job vacancies at record levels

Job vacancies for accountants, engineers, scientists and other professionals reached record levels at the end of June, a quarterly survey of 1,600 firms by the Technical Service Council (TSC) indicated.

In the year ended June 30, the survey said professional vacancies increased 28 per cent to 3,680. In the first three months of 1980, the rate of increase was 8.4 per cent. In the latest three months it was 3.5 per cent.

The TSC survey attributed vacancy increases during the first six months of 1980 to a slowdown in employers' abilities to fill jobs, not to an increase in the rate of job creation.

It found Ontario is experiencing the greatest shortage: its vacancies increased by 36.3 per cent during the year to 1,696. Quebec vacancies jumped 27.5 per cent to 389. British Columbia job openings totalled 425, and in the prairies, an increase of 20.7 per cent brought the total number of openings to 1,170.

Demand is strongest for experienced systems analysts, computer programmers, accountants, electronic technologists and engineers specializing in mechanical sales, mechanical plants and chemical processes.

Limited opportunities were found for corporate lawyers, technical writers, architects, biologists, zoologists and biochemists.

to vaccinate young children and pregnant women against this illness, which can cause fetal malformations.

Mrs. Thibodeau hopes to produce poliomyelitis virosomes soon. However, this will require a very different technique, because the virus which causes poliomyelitis, unlike other viruses, does not have a membrane resembling that of living cells.

These prospects are so promising that in early May the Institut Armand-Frappier decided to include Mrs. Thibodeau's research projects among those receiving top priority at the institution. Negotiations have also begun on agreements with certain European genetic engineering laboratories which have already succeeded in making bacteria produce some of the elements Mrs. Thibodeau used for her research.