

News briefs

Barney Danson, Canada's Minister of National Defence from 1976-1979, has been named Consul General to Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Danson was elected federal Liberal member of Parliament for York North in 1968. He served as parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister (1970-72) and vice chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs and National Defence (1972-74). He was Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Housing) in 1974, and in 1976 was named Minister of National Defence. Since 1979 he has been president of Dash-Air Incorporated and chairman and director of de Havilland Aircraft of Canada.

Ken Taylor, Canada's departing Consul General in New York, is the first recipient of the America's Society Medal, awarded for distinguished service in the field of Canadian-US relations. The 49-year-old diplomat, who is leaving after three years at his post, first gained public notice for his role in the rescue of six US diplomats during the 1979 hostage crisis in Iran.

Mark Bentz of Vancouver, British Columbia, the Canadian disabled ski team's youngest skier, won the men's downhill for the partially sighted at the Winter World Disabled Games in Innsbruck. Bentz, 16, a late addition to the team, beat teammate Uli Rompel of Calgary, Alberta by two seconds. Rompel, 40, is the Canadian team's oldest skier. August Hofer of Austria placed third, three seconds behind Rompel.

Seven Canadian hotels were given Five Diamond ratings in 1983, the highest possible award from the American Automobile Association (AAA). The awards are given for superiority in guest facilities, services and atmosphere. Canadian winners, among only 47 hotels and resorts throughout North America, are: Hôtel Bonaventure, Quatre-Saisons and the Ritz-Carlton in Montreal; The Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto; The Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver and Westin Bayshore in Vancouver.

Cansult Limited of Toronto, a firm of consulting engineers and planners, has been chosen to design 200 kilometres of sanitary sewers in Amman, Jordan. The firm is already well-established in the Middle East with projects currently under way in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Iraq and Lebanon. This is Cansult's first project in Jordan.

Wind-chill surfer



Citizen

Dan Sullivan braves below-zero temperatures to try out a windsurfer with skis on Britannia Bay, near Ottawa.

Northern Telecom Ltd. of Mississauga, Ontario and Alberta Government Telephones (AGT) have signed an agreement for the joint development of high-technology, optical fibre products and systems in Alberta. AGT will participate directly in the conception and application stages of new fibre optics telecommunications products. The first program under the agreement is an optical fibre telecommunications system being developed at Bell-Northern Research laboratories in Edmonton. The system, capable of carrying three times the information load of previous products over the same amount of actual fibre, will be field-tested in Alberta.

Gaetan Boucher of Ste-Foy, Quebec captured the gold medal in the men's 1 000-metre event at an international speed skating competition held recently in Inzell, West Germany. Boucher, who won a silver medal in the 500-metre event, was clocked in one minute 14.81 seconds. Akira Kuroiwa of Japan, who beat Boucher for the 500-metre gold by 30 one-hundredths of a second, was second in 1:16.11.

Canada will work with the United States in a scientific program of ocean drilling to probe beneath the sea floor, according to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Britain, Japan, West Germany and France are expected to join the project. Designed to gather geoscientific information, the drilling phase of the project is expected to start next fall and move to the Labrador Sea in 1985. The knowledge gained will contribute to an understanding of the geology of the Labrador Sea and aid Canada in the search for hydrocarbons off the east coast.

Steve Podborski skied to victory recently to win the seventh World Cup downhill ski race of the season. It was his third consecutive win on the Kreuzteck Kandahar in West Germany's Garmisch-Partenkirchen. He set a course record there in 1981 and won again in 1982.

A co-operative agreement to create a Teacher Micro-Computer Resource Centre at York University in Toronto has been reached by York University and IBM Canada Ltd., also of Toronto. The centre will develop guidelines for testing, evaluation and use of computer software and hardware in teaching. In a later phase, a database of information about existing microcomputer courseware will be established.

The dogs were in good voice recently in Victoria, British Columbia, as a gentleman named Kirk Nurock performed the Canadian premiere of his *Sonata for Piano and Dog* with the Victoria Symphony. He describes his music as "cross-species communication". In the final movement he, three dogs and the dogs' owners all crooned together in shaggy harmony. Symphony officials, however, turned down as inappropriate the suggestion that the audience be encouraged to yelp along.

Canada Weekly is published by the Public Affairs Branch, 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 Noticiario de Canadá.

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

Canada 

ISSN 0384-2312