

In this issue

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Fishing trips to remote lakes are an increasingly popular pursuit, offering a chance to barbecue your own catch.

Photo: Deborah McNeill

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Editorial

When the European Community imposed a seal-pelt ban in 1983, seal populations in Canada were not saved. That is because they had never been under any kind of threat. The EC ban did have some effect, however: it undermined the delicate economies in Arctic areas such as Baffin Island, forcing many Canadian Inuit out of self-sustaining employment and (since other forms of work are hard to come by in such isolated areas) onto government welfare rolls.

In an article on the fur trade in this issue, we examine how 'poorly informed initiatives by people far away can unwittingly upset the close relationship which northern people maintain with the environment'. And we puncture some of the myths that now surround the trapping of fur-bearing animals in Canada.

In a separate article - but also concerned with economic and environmental developments in the Canadian north - we look at the impact of the new low-level-flying training base in Labrador, which Canada is offering for use by NATO. Economically, the base would have a marked and beneficial effect on the local economy, but it will only go ahead if exhaustive studies find it would have no adverse effects on the local environment.

Elsewhere on the subject of the environment, we report on the new Rogers Pass Tunnel which was recently opened in the Selkirk Mountains, a wild range that makes up part of the Canadian Rockies. The rail tunnel - and its supporting infrastructure - was a major undertaking, in some ways similar to the rail tunnel now being built beneath the English Channel. In Canada, the project was completed on time and under budget - and it has since won praise from environmentalists and national park administrators as a model of how to get things right.

In another article in this issue, we take a fresh look at Canada's cuisine. No, it's not all moose pie

and maple syrup. Instead, it is a unique blend formed by European cooking introduced by early pioneers and adapted to the needs of a new land, the culinary skills of numerous indigenous peoples, and the influence of large numbers of 'ethnic' foods introduced by a colourful mosaic of immigrant cultures. Canadian cooking is one of the little-known pleasures that visitors to Canada quickly discover - and one of the many reasons they keep coming back.

This issue of *Canada Today* also recounts the way that Canadian studies programmes in Britain have undergone a sustained revival after almost two decades of benign neglect. There are now eleven major centres of Canadian studies in the UK, which maintain formal programmes that encourage teaching, research and publication about Canada, and the collaboration between Canadian and British academics.

Finally in this expanded, 20-page issue, we report on a major exhibition that will soon be mounted at the Canada House Gallery in Trafalgar Square. It features the work of Kryn Taconis, the eminent Dutch-Canadian photojournalist who had a distinguished career, first in Europe and then in Canada.



Donald S. Macdonald
Canadian High Commissioner