

Canada Weekly

REF

Volume 9, No. 3

January 21, 1981



Ottawa, Canada

- Major conservation study to determine future of Arctic region, 1
- Earth station licensing simplified, 3
- Marshall McLuhan dies, 3
- New computerized bank helps workers, 3
- Winter fun in Canada, 4
- Company markets solar-powered water pumps, 5
- Canada-Nepal health workers training program, 5
- Inuit television network opens, 5
- New Brunswick wins competition, 6
- Sportfishing scrutinized in book, 6
- Stamp honours founder of hospital, 6
- Top athletes named, 6
- News of the arts — exhibition, prize, music, 7
- News briefs, 8

Major conservation study to determine future of Arctic region

The federal government has been carrying out a study of the Lancaster Sound region of the Arctic to compile information about the vast resources of the area and its current and potential uses. Next year, the government will release a final green paper which will provide the basis for determining the future uses of the region. The study is being conducted by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in collaboration with the departments of Environment; Fisheries and Oceans; Energy, Mines and Resources; and Transport; and the government of Northwest Territories. Excerpts from a booklet, entitled All About the Green Paper and outlining more about the study, follow:

The Lancaster Sound region is of great physical beauty and rich in biological resources. Polar bear, muskoxen, caribou and other wildlife are found in the region. At various times throughout the year its waters are home to vast colonies of migratory birds, and to walrus, seals and whales, all in a setting of complex marine currents, a harsh and stormy climate and heavy ice formation. For centuries, Inuit hunters have fed and clothed their families by harvesting these wildlife resources. Today this tradition continues and it is an important expression of cultural heritage by the people of the area.

Concern for conservation of the region is reflected in the identification of possible national park sites, and in proposals for designation of ecological sites under the International Biological Program (IBP). Their establishment would provide varying degrees of environmental protection to the resources of the region.

The region has also figured prominently in the history of European exploration of this continent and in subsequent patterns of trade, transportation and settlement. Now its role as the eastern entry to the Northwest Passage is likely to become even more important as proposals are being considered for new marine transportation systems and for increased shipping to transport products to and from the North.

Energy resources

The growing need for new oil and gas supplies and mineral resources has most dramatically increased interest in Lan-

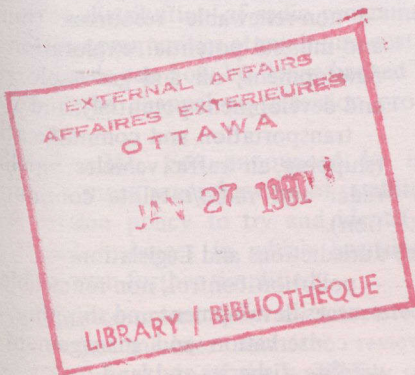
caster Sound in recent years. The lead/zinc mine at Nanisivik, on Strathcona Sound, is already producing ore, and the Arvik Mine being developed on Little Cornwallis Island will produce more. The Arctic Pilot Project, a proposal to ship liquified natural gas (LNG) year-round by icebreaking tanker through Lancaster Sound from a processing facility on Melville Island, was examined by the Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) in July 1980.

In addition, seismic surveys over the past decade have shown that the offshore areas are underlain by geological formations which could contain large petroleum deposits. However only through exploratory drilling can the potential of this very promising area be determined.

The study area is centred on Lancaster Sound at the eastern end of the Northwest Passage, north of Baffin Island. It embraces Cornwallis, Little Cornwallis and Bylot islands, together with parts of Devon, Somerset and Baffin islands. The communities of Resolute, Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet, and the mining community of Nanisivik, are situated within the study area.

Draft green paper

In order to stimulate full public discussion of a specific issue or policy question, the government sometimes prepares a "green paper" which is a tool for discussion and debate. In the case of the many questions concerning the future of the Lancaster Sound region, the government will first distribute a draft green paper which, together with a series of technical reports



Seventeen-years ago this week...

Canada and the United States established a joint commission, with representation from New Brunswick, to develop and administer the estate of former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Campobello Island, New Brunswick, as an international park.

Jan 21 / 81