

English hospital salutes Ontario bicentennial

A Toronto eye specialist, Dr. Clive Mortimer, helped to celebrate Ontario's bicentennial in England at a hospital built 70 years ago for Canadian soldiers wounded in the First World War.

Dr. Mortimer, chairman of the department of ophthalmology at the University of Toronto and Toronto General Hospital, was invited to give a lecture at Orpington Hospital in Kent, which began as the Ontario Military

Hospital. The province of Ontario completed the 2 000-bed hospital, composed of rows of huts, in February 1916, when it was opened by Andrew Bonar Law, later prime minister of Britain.

Before the war ended in 1918, the Ontario Military Hospital had cared for 26 278 troops of the Canadian, British and other Commonwealth forces.

In the Second World War the hospital,

again became a military hospital. Troops wounded at Dunkirk were taken directly there from the beaches of France.

Although most of the huts have been replaced by modern buildings, some of the originals remain in use. Orpington Hospital, named after the town it's in, is a 451-bed centre, where acute care in a variety of specialties, as well as geriatric and emergency care is provided.

Co-operation for equipment

Dr. Mortimer practised in England for five years before settling in Canada. He is working to establish an eye research institute in Toronto to provide closer collaboration for teaching hospital ophthalmology departments in the city. It would be involved in undergraduate and graduate teaching and in basic and clinical research.

According to Dr. Mortimer, "the politics of inter-hospital co-operation, which is just starting in Canada", is already paying off in Toronto by achieving collaboration instead of competition among University of Toronto teaching hospitals in the use of expensive equipment such as the YAG laser used to treat certain eye conditions. (YAG stands for yttrium, aluminum and garnet.)

Dr. Mortimer said the YAG will be used by five hospitals, Toronto General, Sunnybrook Medical Centre, Mount Sinai, St. Michael's and Toronto Western. The same kind of arrangement will apply to a new \$150 000-computerized field tester used in neurology and for glaucoma.

Canada helps finance hydroelectric project in India

The Canadian government has announced that it will give financial support in the amount of \$620 million for the export of Canadian goods and services to India.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) signed parallel loan agreements with the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation in New Delhi on August 3.

These agreements will finance \$403 million and \$217 million, respectively, of Canadian goods and services for the 540-megawatt Chamera hydroelectric project on the Ravi River in Himachal Pradesh, India. These amounts will complement India's own contribution of domestic goods and services valued at about \$648.5 million.

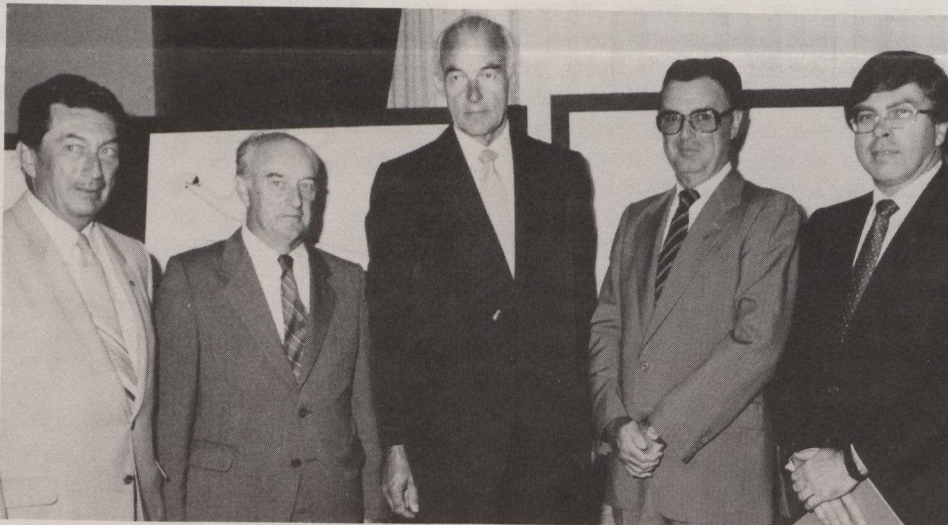
CIDA is lending an additional \$28.5 million separately under a CIDA power sector line of credit with India. The total cost of the Chamera project is \$1.3 billion.

The Canadian Consortium of Chamera Constructors (sponsored by SNC Inc. and

composed of SNC, Acres, Canadian General Electric, and Marine Industries Limited) was nominated as exporter of record for the Canadian participation in the project. SNC and Acres will provide engineering services that will consist of project management, technical training, construction assistance, and procurement services. Marine Industries Limited's equipment package will consist principally of turbines, gates and accessories, while Canadian General Electric Company Limited's will consist of generators, generator exciters, bus ducts and accessories.

The generation of additional power is expected to play a key role in India's economic development and the Chamera project is one part of a general plan to develop the country's substantial hydro resources.

In addition to the work performed by the four prime companies, some 200 other Canadian firms could be involved as sub-suppliers during the execution of the project.



Members of the Canadian Consortium of Chamera Constructors are represented by (left to right): Jean-Roch Brisson, president of Marine Industries Limited; Max Drouin, vice president of Canadian General Electric; Hugh Reinhart, president of Acres International; Jean-Paul Gourdeau, president of SNC; and William Pearson, vice president of the Energy division of SNC Inc.

Reassessment of drug safety

A systematic review of the safety of drugs and chemicals was recently begun by Health and Welfare Canada.

The new initiative, which will cost about \$2 million, is expected to help the department ensure that drugs, pesticides and food chemicals marketed for many years, still meet modern safety standards.

The program will consist of a variety of activities including: a review of old drugs whose risk/benefit ratio may no longer be acceptable in modern medicine; a reassessment of the safety of food additives, colours, and flavours that have not been examined according to modern standards; the development of a system for the pre-market approval of new food flavours and packaging materials; a study of the health of pesticide applicators and their families; and the preparation of safety guidelines and education programs for pesticide users.