

wheelchair passengers wear seat belts.

The design and fabrication of the interior lift – and the structural changes made to a regular inter-city bus – were completed by an Ottawa engineering firm, TES Limited. Funding, amounting to some \$400 000, was provided by Transport Canada.

The major modification inside the bus was the removal of eight of the 47 regular passenger seats and the addition of two wheelchair seats (cutting the loss to six seats). However, a newer version – the Mark II, also commissioned by Transport Canada – incorporates up to eight permanent folding seats, which accommodate passengers when the space is not required for disabled people.

These retractable seats are an attractive option to bus operators, since they eliminate seating loss when there are no wheelchairs on the bus.

Prior to the development of the new technology for the interior lift, various types of folding out lifts were used. For wheelchair passengers, there were many disadvantages to this type of lift. If something went wrong, a disabled passenger might slide off the platform and possibly fall to the ground. In addition, he or she would be needlessly exposed, and subject to all extremes of weather.



Computer-controlled bus lift undergoing trials with TerraTransport of Newfoundland.

The new accessible bus has been undergoing trials with TerraTransport in Newfoundland. In addition, the Mark II prototype is being demonstrated across Canada to ministers of transportation, bus operators and the general public. As well, the new bus was shown to the world at Expo 86 in Vancouver.

Environment

Lead content in petrol reduced even further

The lead content of petrol in Canada has been reduced from 0.77 gram/litre to a standard of 0.29 gram/litre. According to a government announcement, this will result in lead-emission reductions of over 60 per cent from 1982 levels of 7000 tonnes a year, and represents an overall reduction of close to 80 per cent from the pre-regulation levels of 12 800 tonnes per year (1972).

Approximately 73 per cent of man-made lead emissions released in the Canadian atmosphere in 1972 came from cars using leaded petrol. Since 1975, most manufacturers have been equipping cars with catalytic converters that only operate efficiently with lead-free petrol. Despite the dramatic reduction of emissions over the last decade, the latest national emission inventory showed that car emissions are still the largest single source of lead released into the Canadian environment.

Toxic organic waste disposal

A major new breakthrough in toxic organic waste disposal with energy-producing potential has been perfected in Ontario and is attracting attention around the world.

The process, called Wetox, was refined over nine years by the Ontario Research Foundation (ORF) and is now being marketed under licence by WetCom Engineering Limited of Scarborough, Ontario.

Basically, the system takes liquid organic wastes, oxidises them and reduces them to water, carbon dioxide and acetic acid. After carbon filtering, the remaining material is neutral enough to pass through a normal sewage treatment plant.

Bob McCorquodale, president of WetCom (the name stands for wet combustion), calls it 'a system for oxidising organic materials under water, applicable to anything that will burn'.

To any company which generates liquid organic waste as a result of its production process, the financial and environmental advantages are obvious.

A mobile plant for the Wetox process was developed by ORF after study of a prototype built by an American firm for the Skylab project. The Ontario government helped with funding, both for initial research and for the pilot project.

ORF refined the technology to the point where it was commercially viable. The first commercial application of the process is being undertaken by Uniroyal Chemicals in Elmira, Ontario, which, with financial help from the federal government, is building a \$1.3-million Wetox plant to get rid of residues from production of chemicals.

'One of the big benefits of Wetox is that it will let us destroy, on-site, strong wastes previously shipped off-site,' says project manager Louis Klink. He estimates that there will be a \$200 000 annual saving in transportation costs.

In the Wetox process, the liquid waste is pumped through a heat exchanger and then into a reactor where it is mixed with compressed air. The oxygen in the air reacts with the organic matter to produce mainly carbon dioxide and water. The heat produced helps keep the liquid material in the reactor at the required high temperature.

The entire process is coordinated by a microprocessor. The processor monitors and controls the process at all times, and can signal when there is a problem.

Culture

Priceless Shaw papers go to Guelph

The Laurence Collection – regarded as the most important private collection of printed material by and about George Bernard Shaw – has been acquired by the University of Guelph in Ontario.

The 2000 items in the collection include rehearsal copies of plays with Shaw's alterations to texts scribbled in the margins; all known recordings of Shaw's voice; 200 photographs; and a complete collection of Shaw's political writings and pamphlets.

Among the documents are a number of costume design sketches executed by Shaw

himself for an 1894 production of *Arms and the Man*.

The collection, which ranks in importance with the Shaw collections at the Universities of Texas, North Carolina and Cornell and the British Library, is a welcome addition to Guelph's existing Shaw collection in the University's McLaughlin Library.

It is particularly appropriate that Shaw's papers should find a home at Guelph, since its nearby neighbour, Niagara-on-the-Lake, organises a summer festival devoted to the playwright's work. In 1986, the Shaw Festival celebrated its silver jubilee.

A Canadian Mozart hits a high note in Britain

A Canadian musician has just made his European concert debut in Bristol – and he's only 14 years old.

Corey Cerovsek appeared with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in January in a performance of Mozart's A major Violin Concerto, and went on to repeat the concert in the Festival Hall, London the following night. It was attended by the Canadian High Commissioner and an impressive audience from the arts, government and business worlds.

According to Rudolf Barshai, who conducted for both concerts, Corey is the greatest young violinist since Mikhail Goldstein – who gave his first public concert in Odessa at the age of five.

'His imagination is like an adult's; his style is that of an experienced artist,' says Barshai, who heard Goldstein play the Mendelssohn Concerto in Russia when he had reached the ripe old age of 12.

The young Canadian is no stranger to the concert platform, having performed with more than a dozen orchestras throughout North America. He came to prominence when he won a National Music Competition in violin, piano and ensemble at the age of nine. He is currently a student at the Indiana School of music. He dislikes being regarded as a prodigy and says that he plays the violin simply because he loves it.