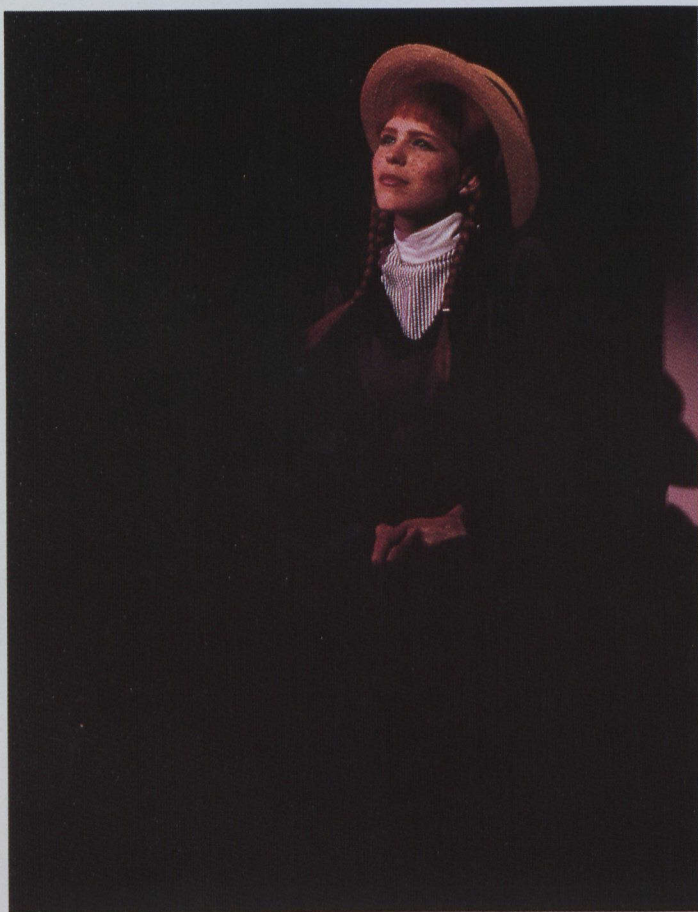


Films were also a component of the Great Canada '91 festival. Among those films presented were *Deep Sleep*, directed by Patricia Gruben; *Company of Strangers*, directed by Cynthia Scott; and *Perfectly Normal*, directed by Yves Simoneau. All three were received with great enthusiasm by Japanese film critics, representatives of the film industry and the general public.

"This extraordinary initiative, undertaken in the Great Canada '91 cultural festival, was designed to create stronger ties between our two countries," said Royal Trust Chairman Hartland MacDougall, who is chairperson of the Japan Society. "It will demonstrate not only the breadth of artistic achievement in Canada, but will also open the doors to the further exchange of ideas, goods and services in the future."



Preparing for Brazil 1992

When the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) opens its doors in Brazil on June 1, 1992, it will — in many ways — bear an indelible Canadian mark. With two preparatory conferences under their belts, and two more to go, Canadian officials have already left their imprint, after spending many intensive months in negotiations and preparations for the so-called "Earth Summit."

With the expected attendance of up to 160 world leaders (including Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney) plus delegations, industry representatives and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), it is clear that the logistics and

protocol alone for UNCED will be extremely difficult. Add to that the ambitious agenda and high hopes for concrete results on many environmental issues that have never before been subject to international negotiations, and the organizational task becomes colossal.

The agenda for UNCED itself and for all the preparatory conferences (Prepcoms) leading up to it includes protection of the atmosphere, land, and fresh and salt water resources; conservation of biological diversity; management of biotechnology and hazardous wastes; containment of toxic products and wastes; climate change; human health; poverty; and environmental degradation. These issues are being looked at both individually and cross-sectorally.

One of Canada's successes in the first two UNCED preparatory meetings has been to help make NGOs more accepted in the pre-UNCED negotiating process, reflecting the Canadian government's policy of forging government/private-sector partnerships to tackle the difficult environmental agenda ahead.

At the first Prepcom in Nairobi, and again at the second in Geneva, Canada included as part of its official delegation NGO representatives from native, youth, environmental, development and industry groups. At the Geneva Prepcom in March and April, Canada played a key role in facilitating accreditation for the 170 NGOs from around the world that attended the meeting and was notable for

covering the costs of most of the developing country non-governmental groups.

At that meeting, Canada, along with Australia and New Zealand, won plenary support for their proposal that indigenous people make a specific contribution to the UNCED process, because of their abilities to use natural resources in a sustainable way.

Another indirect Canadian contribution to the "Earth Summit" is its Secretary-General, Maurice Strong. A long-time worker for the United Nations in the development and environmental fields, Strong has said, "The primary goal of UNCED will be to lay the foundation for a global partnership between developing and more industrialized countries, based on mutual need and common interests, to ensure the future of the planet."

The next preparatory meeting for UNCED takes place in Geneva, from August 12 to September 6.

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Telex: 053-3745

Editor-in-Chief:
Jean-Pierre Ollivier

Editor:
Mary Anne Dehler

Production editor:
Ann Gibbs

Art direction:
Bob Thompson

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Great Canada '91 included presentations of the Charlottetown Festival's *Anne of Green Gables*.