

## Sunken wagon train

Some evidence supporting the theory that a sunken wagon train lies at the bottom of the Snye River has been discovered by divers from the Ontario Provincial Police.

The divers have located relics on the 65-foot channel bottom. The police divers were operating under the supervision of Leonard Kroon of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The two — Paul Bailey and Tim O'Hagan — have been permitted by the Ontario Provincial Police to assist Mr. Kroon, the University of Windsor's Field Archeologist, as part of their schedule of required training dives to maintain underwater proficiency.

The divers brought to the surface a part of a wagon hitch along with sections of vertebrae, which Mr. Kroon believes were those of oxen.

Mr. Kroon believes a wagon train fell through the ice as it attempted to cross the Snye River to Walpoe Island about 1850.

He arrived at his theory through local word-of-mouth reports and, as far as anyone knows, there is no documentation of the occurrence.

In April this year, the two divers combed the bottom of the Snye and sighted what they believed to be barrel staves. In the three subsequent dives this summer more evidence has been compiled.

The divers have located two pairs of wooden wagon wheels each about five feet in diameter and partially covered by silt in the deepest part of the channel. They report that the wheels have iron bands for "treads".

Mr. Kroon suspects each set of wheels belongs to a separate wagon as in most old wagons the front and rear wheels are of different sizes.

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## News briefs

■ The Borrowers and Depositors Protection Bill, tabled in the Commons October 27 by Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Anthony Abbott, would give consumers more protection against unfair interest rates, standardize the calculation of interest on bank deposits and would give police new mechanisms to crack down on "loansharking". It would force lenders to give full and exact information on interest charges at each stage of a transaction, would standardize credit principles across the country, enable consumers to know the true cost of a loan and would permit direct comparison of the rates offered by various lenders.

■ The export tax on partially processed oil shipped to the U.S. was reduced by five cents a barrel to \$3.75 effective November 1. Taxes on other shipments remain unchanged at \$3.25 for motor gasoline and gasoline components, \$3 for middle distillates and \$3.50 for heavy fuel oil.

■ Canada will take part in experiments using a French/German communications satellite system, Communications Minister Sauvé and her French counterpart, Norbert Segard, said in a joint statement released October 26. The statement said Canada and France would develop co-operative experiments using the *Symphonie* satellite system.

■ A 30-year agreement to connect the electric power networks of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island was signed October 26 by officials of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission and Maritime Electric Co. of Charlottetown. The \$39.2-million project will involve 31 miles of 138,000-volt transmission line — 13.5 miles under water — linking the two provinces.

■ Newfoundland Fisheries Minister Walter Carter, has embarked on a course of action to develop a more precise method of marine weather forecasting in his province to provide more adequate warnings of approaching storms to better safeguard the lives of fishermen and to allow them more time to take precautionary measures to protect their fishing gear.

■ The Manitoba Law Reform Commission has issued a report recommending

that every certifiably identified post-operative trans-sexual person born in Manitoba be entitled to a birth certificate designating that person's preferred sex in accordance with surgical changes. Similar measures are in effect in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. The Commission notes that the transsexual persons interviewed placed great importance on having a revised birth certificate to save them unnecessary embarrassment when asked to prove their sex.

■ Some 250 Venezuelan students are receiving scholarships to permit them to further their training in Canada in science and engineering. Ottawa's Carleton University has agreed to provide the means whereby 50 Spanish-speaking students will carry out a special program in English as a second language in the Faculty of Arts. They will also be given scientific training to qualify them for entrance into the degree program to which they made their original commitment.

■ Inflation declined from the 12 percent rate at which it was running before the anti-inflation program began a year ago to 6.5 per cent in September, but a lot more work must be done on the psychology of the public, Anti-Inflation Board chairman Jean-Luc Pepin says, adding that the program must be allowed to run its full three-year term. Finance Minister Donald Macdonald says wage and profit controls will remain until a consensus is achieved with labour and business on the sharing of national income. The federal Cabinet intends to achieve that consensus through meetings with business, labour and other groups in society, he says.

■ Pay increases averaging 8 per cent effective October 1, have been announced for members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Pay now ranges from \$500 a month for a private on entry to the Forces to \$2,445 for a lieutenant-colonel.

■ Canada is having its best year ever in wheat production, with records expected in yields and total production. About 22 million tons of feed grains will be harvested this year — an increase of about 11 per cent over the 1975 figure.