

play readings, concerts, poetry readings and films. The High Commission's cultural affairs counsellor David Peacock said it will be the launching platform for younger lesser-known artists, as well as a forum for established ones.

All events are open to the public, free of charge, but the appeal for a public audience in Britain is limited. The events, therefore, will be aimed at professional audiences — the critics, producers and directors who might be persuaded to bring Canadian culture to the British public.

"I think perhaps the more important steps which lead to general acceptance is professional acceptance," Mr. Peacock said. "If the professional community begins to perceive that the work that is being presented...is exciting and is interesting, and if therefore our plays, our music, our performers become accepted within the professional gamut of activity in this country because they're good, not because they're Canadian, then that I think is the most important step."

News briefs

The firm of Arthur Erickson Architects of Toronto and Vancouver has been selected to design the new Canadian embassy in Washington, D.C. The firm was one of 11 finalists chosen from 300 firms from across Canada. The new building will be located on Pennsylvania Avenue, opposite the new east wing of the National Gallery. Mr. Erickson was the winner of the design competition for the Canadian pavilion at Expo 70 in Osaka, Japan and has been the recipient of numerous Canadian

and international awards.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a \$5-million (U.S.) line of credit with Banco Real South America of Brazil to assist Canadian exporters competing for sales in Brazil by providing their Brazilian buyers with a simple and easily accessible credit facility through the bank. It is expected that the main beneficiaries of the line of credit will be small- and medium-sized Canadian manufacturing companies.

The Centre for Canadian-American Studies of Western Washington University will hold a symposium on acidic precipitation on June 24-26 in Bellingham, Washington. The meeting will discuss among other things the impact of acidic precipitation in North America and Europe and political and economic aspects of transboundary air pollution. One workshop will evaluate the present data base for the western United States and Canada and will develop plans for co-operative research.

Police officers in Ontario will receive safe driving instruction as part of their basic training, starting this October. Gerald Hunsberger, deputy-director of the Ontario Police College said that police chiefs have been asking for this type of training for many years.

The Royal Bank of Canada has agreed to purchase all outstanding shares of the Finance Corporation of the Bahamas Limited (FINCO) for an undisclosed price. FINCO, with assets equivalent to \$89 million (U.S.), is the biggest mortgage finance company in the Bahamas. The takeover is subject to approval by Bahamian authorities.

The Foundation Company of Canada Limited of Toronto has signed a \$130 000

contract with Joint Sunray Flour Mills Limited to conduct a feasibility study for construction of a flour mill in Nigeria costing about \$20 million. The Foundation Company will head a group involving Maple Leaf Mills Limited and Fodor Engineering Limited of Toronto and Cansilo Limited of Montreal and Thunder Bay. Of the proposed mill's \$20 million capital cost, \$16 million is allocated for construction and \$4 million for shipping and transshipment equipment such as tugs, barges and unloaders.

The Alberta Wheat Pool has made a \$300 000 sale of barley seed to China. The sale, the first of barley to China, involved 1 009 tonnes of grain.

The Canadian fashion industry recently exhibited their wares for potential foreign buyers at the Canadian Outerwear Fashion Fair held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. One-hundred Canadian exhibitors displayed their fall and winter clothes and accessories for buyers coming primarily from the United States, Europe and Japan. The fair, which was first held two years ago, included leathers, suedes, sheepskin, down-filled fabrics, tweeds, wools, ski and other sportswear such as co-ordinate outfits for men and women and men's clothing such as slacks, suits, shirts and accessories.

Labour Canada recently sponsored a three-day conference on sexual equality in the workplace in Toronto. Labour Minister Charles Caccia said, the purpose of the conference was to "provide workers, government, business and women's organizations with a forum for an effective dialogue. The issues surrounding equality are not just women's issues. These are critical economic and human issues. Our own economic interest demands an urgent assessment of the progress we have made".



The Royal Canadian Mint has changed its one-cent coin so that it can be more easily recognized by the blind; the pennies have been easily confused with dimes. Instead of being round shaped the coins now have 12 sides.

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