

Playwright prize awarded

A Cambridge, Ontario author has been awarded first prize in the forty-second annual national Canadian Playwriting Competition sponsored by the Ottawa Little Theatre.

The Solange Karsh Award, which consists of \$1,000 and a specially-designed medal, has been awarded to B. Van Norman for his play, entitled *Breath of the Wolf*.

More than 100 entries were accepted this year for the competition. Adjudicator John Wood said in awarding the three prizes and three honourable mentions that none of the plays were ready for production in their present form.

He said that he felt that the three winners were good rehearsal scripts and might produce interesting results if the authors were to work with directors experienced in new plays over an extended rehearsal period.

Second prize, the \$500 Dorothy White Award was presented to Cecilia Mavrow of Vancouver for her play, *The Cookie Maker*, while third prize, the \$200 Gladys Cameron Watt Award was presented to Raymond Storey of Toronto for his drama, *The Immortelle*.

Film tax scheme revised

The federal government has announced that it will boost Canadian content in Canadian films by way of its tax deferral scheme.

Beginning next year, producers must feature Canadian stars — as well as a Canadian director or screen writer — in their films in order for their financial backers to qualify for the 100 per cent tax break.

The government also announced the immediate establishment of a \$4-million interim film financing fund for the Canadian Film Development Corporation, which previously could only offer such risk capital through its operating budget.

The tax deferral system for investors has been largely responsible for the current boom in the Canadian film industry, spawning such critical or box office hits as *Les Plouffes*, *Les Bons Débarras*, *Murder by Decree*, *Prom Night* and *Meatballs*.

In making the announcement, Communications Minister Francis Fox said that the capital cost allowance (tax deferral scheme) is not only a financial incentive but a "cultural incentive, a tool for

promoting culture".

"It has become necessary to strike a practical balance between commercial viability and Canadian cultural content," he added.

Beginning next January the "point" system by which the federal government decides whether a film or videotape project qualifies for tax deferral status will require producers to use Canadians in one

New Brunswick museum brings to life sailing past

Visitors to the marine gallery at the New Brunswick Museum in St. John can relive for a few moments their childhood dreams of pirates, hidden treasure, adventures on the high seas and voyages to places known to them only in books.

The museum features a reproduction of the *Marco Polo*. Built in Saint John in 1852, it was the fastest sailing vessel of its time. An intensive campaign begun in the 1930s to obtain models and photographs of ships or other memorabilia used by New Brunswick sailors in the golden age of sail, has resulted in a large marine collection. Some of the artifacts and objects were found in Saint John and in the vicinity of this port city while others come from around the world.

The New Brunswick Museum, which opened in 1842, was the first public museum in North America. The museum, then contained the personal collection of provincial geologist Abraham Gesner. It consisted of rocks, minerals, birds, animals, Indian artifacts and rare objects. Over the years the collection has been expanded by the addition of many pieces

of the two highest paying performing roles as well as either a Canadian director or screen-writer.

Meanwhile, the new \$4-million risk fund for the Canadian Film Development Corporation will enable the Crown corporation to commit more of its budget to higher-risk equity investments including projects other than conventional feature films.

brought in on whalers and other vessels whose home port is Saint John.

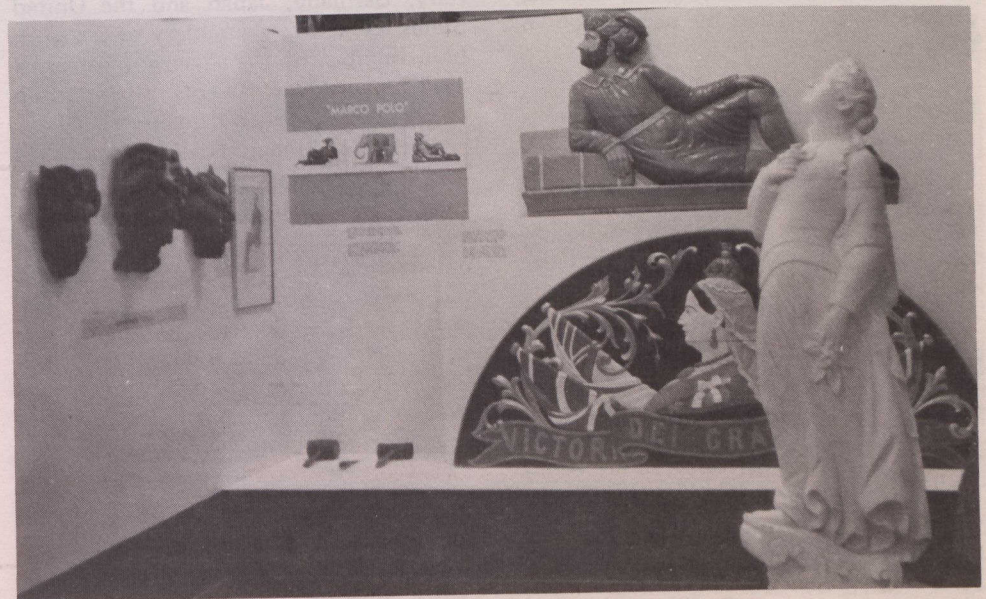
The museum gradually earned an international reputation and in 1862 was annexed to the Museum of Natural History. Today the natural science galleries form an excellent and fascinating part of the museum. The museum also has ethnological exhibits that feature the Indian and Eskimo cultures.

Canadian history

In the Canadiana gallery are several thousand paintings, engravings and prints pertaining to Canadian history.

There is a vast military collection containing the weapons used by the British army in New Brunswick, by the provincial militia and by Second World War units. Among these collections are the colourful uniforms worn by the regional armies of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The museum also has furniture of the Loyalist period and silverware produced by New Brunswick silversmiths at the turn of the century.



Wood sculptures in the marine gallery of the New Brunswick Museum.