

(information systems, LAN and WAN connections), the reduction of overlapping activities with Customs, and joint efforts with U.S. agencies are all aimed at making secure travel easier. Greater co-operation, joint security strategies, and cost-shared initiatives provide easier access for the business person and traveller alike. Every day, we take steps to make trouble-free access a reality.

But our concerns do not end at the U.S. border. Canada has a responsibility for addressing international issues and concerns of other countries, as well as participating fully in international policy and strategic development.

The Passport Office organizes, leads and participates in working groups, projects and committees involving international bodies and foreign governments. Co-operation this year with the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) supported the

Other organizations—moving in tandem

The Passport Office contributes greatly to the activities of other government organizations, charities and non-profit organizations. For instance, information on passport services was given at a constituency meeting in Scarborough, Ontario. A meeting with Metro Members of Parliament (MPs) allowed the Passport Office to provide guidance in dealing with their constituents on passport issues.

In addition, our offices continued to offer Outreach services to school and church groups, and passport videos were loaned as teaching aids. Presentations were made at colleges on the history of the Passport Office. Passport kits were provided to schools, travel agencies, MP and MLA offices.

The Passport Office people helped the United Way go well beyond its projected goals by providing initiative, imagination and fun. Funds were raised for the Cancer Fund, various Food Banks, the

? > When war broke out in 1939, the United States government announced that Canadians would need passports and visas to cross the border. At that time about half a million Canadians travelled to the States each year without any documentation. Tensions rose at border crossings when American border officials began searching Canadian travellers. When a hearse was detained at the border, a riot broke out, the culmination of incidents that led to Canada's issuing of special wartime passports for travel to the United States. <

development of secure procedures for such projects as the machine-readable passport cards to thwart smugglers and counterfeiters. Participation with INTERPOL this year led to successful clarification on the aspects of fraudulent travel documents and the development of effective security counter-measures. Great emphasis was placed on improving relationships with consular services, particularly Hong Kong and Singapore, and as mentioned before, more flexible passport services improved the effectiveness of consular services. Open relations to foreign governments improves Canada's place on the world stage—presentations were given this year to dignitaries from Brazil, Burkina Faso and Taiwan regarding the operations of Passport Offices.

This kind of improved co-operation is an essential component for making international travel safer, easier and accessible.

Christmas Wish Fund, and the Children's Wish Foundation. Numerous community activities were enthusiastically and creatively supported by our people for such causes as Breast Cancer Research, the Cancer Society, AIDS, Multiple Sclerosis, Food Banks and various Christmas charities.

Running the course

The Passport Office achieved its expected goals when participating with other government and non-government organizations. It realizes that this role will grow in the future, and that it requires as much care and concern from our people as possible. With the increasing strain on government financial resources and the emphasis placed on reducing overlap and on harmonizing operations, partnerships with other organizations become key to our success.

