

# News of

## Telidon goes to the Maritimes

The first field trial of Telidon in the Maritimes, will begin in Saint John, New Brunswick later this year, Communications Minister David MacDonald has announced. Telidon is a two-way television technology developed at the Department of Communications' research centre and is considered to be the most advanced of its kind in the world (see *Canada Weekly* dated October 10, 1979).

About 75 homes and a few businesses will be provided on a rotating basis with Telidon user terminals. The field trial, which is expected to continue for one to two years, is being sponsored by the New Brunswick Telephone Company Ltd. and the federal Department of Communications (DOC).

The DOC will provide about 20 Telidon user terminals, one information provider terminal and technical assistance. New Brunswick Telephone will provide the data base computer and the dedicated access network and will manage and operate the trial.

Users will be able to retrieve information from the data base for display on modified television sets. The information will be of local and national interest. Other services to be included in this trial are automatic and manual intrusion alarm systems, fire alarm, medical alert, meter reading, energy management systems and an automatic telephone testing service.

The experiment is part of a co-ordinated series of Telidon field trials being conducted across Canada involving telecommunications carriers, cable companies and broadcasters. This trial will bring the total number of committed terminals to 1,600.

## Refugee sponsorship changes

The Federal Government has cancelled future sponsorship of Indochinese refugees, leaving it to private sponsors to meet the bulk of the Ottawa target of 50,000, Immigration Minister Ronald Atkey and Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald have announced.

Mr. Atkey explained that the Government planned to redirect the money it would otherwise spend on the refugees to food and medical supplies for Cambodian refugees starving in over-

crowded camps.

The new plan does not mean that the Government has abandoned its goal of allowing 50,000 Vietnamese boat people into Canada. It is just that the matching formula, whereby the Government sponsored one refugee for every one privately sponsored, is being changed to put a greater onus on private sponsors.

The change is being made because private sponsorship has passed the point whereby if matched equally the total number of refugees would exceed 50,000. The Government spends approximately \$1,300 on each refugee it sponsors and it is this money that will be redirected elsewhere.

It is estimated that private groups have sponsored 26,196 refugees. The Government has brought in about 12,000, which means that private groups will have to sponsor a further 11,800 if the 50,000 target is to be met by the end of next year.

The sponsorship program was implemented last summer to help refugees fleeing Vietnam in boats to nearby countries.

Under private sponsorship, a group of five or more individuals signs a contract agreeing to provide moral and financial support to a refugee for at least one year.

## DASH to the Olympics

Montreal will be brought closer to the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York, from February 13 to 24 with the help of the De Havilland DASH-7 air shuttle service.

In less than an hour and a half, visitors will clear customs at Montreal's Dorval Airport, fly to Saranac Lake, New York and bus 11 kilometres (6.8 miles) to Lake Placid, for a round-trip fare of \$100. Actual flight time on the 48-seat plane is 24 minutes with ten return trips a day.

Charter bus transportation between Montreal and Lake Placid is also available at less cost (\$24), but at slightly more than double the travel time.

As the closest major centre to Lake Placid, Montreal has been officially designated a gateway city. Approximately 600,000 visitors, sponsors and others are expected to arrive in Montreal to use the city as their headquarters during the event.

## Cadets mark centennial

Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps across Canada celebrated their centennial November 28 with a variety of commemorative events.

Prince Philip, Colonel-in-Chief, issued a special Order of the Day and Governor-General Edward Schreyer attended an open house at the Ottawa Garrison December 1. In addition, New Brunswick and Quebec held an Army Cadet Week. Events including freedom of the city parades, open houses, presentation of souvenir scrolls and albums, have taken place since the summer.



*Governor-General Schreyer speaks with a cadet while visiting the Ottawa Garrison.*

The Royal Canadian Army Cadets (RC Army C) originated in 1879 and modern cadet units were begun in 1898, when an agreement was reached with Ontario and the designation "Cadet Corps" was used for the first time. In 1909, Lord Strathcona, then High Commissioner for Canada in Britain, who became interested in promoting cadet training in Canada, established a trust fund to teach military drill and rifle shooting and foster patriotism to instil in youth that the first duty of a free citizen is to be prepared to defend his country.

By the end of the Second World War a total of 115,000 cadets were enrolled and a survey indicated that more than 124,000 ex-cadets had volunteered to serve their country with the Navy, Army, Air Force and Merchant Marine.