
Ottawa schoolboy breaks mile

Ottawa's Marc Olesen became the first Canadian schoolboy miler to break the magic four-minute barrier in an international track and field meet held in Burnaby, British Columbia.

The 18-year-old Ottawa runner was clocked in at 3:58.08 to place fourth in a race which was won by Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan in a Canadian open record time of 3:55.04.

Second place went to Kenya's Sosthenes Bitok in 3:57.46 and Toronto's Dave Reid, 20, was third in 3:58.03.

Olesen's time, which also doubles as a Canadian junior record, was just shy of the Canadian native record of 3:57.7 held by Dave Bailey. Bailey established the mark in a Toronto competition in 1967.

Women's life expectancy growing faster than men's

A report released recently by Statistics Canada says Canadian men and women are living longer than they did 30 years ago. But while women gained an additional nine years of life expectancy between 1951 and 1981, men gained only four years.

The average life expectancy for women is now nearly 80 while for men it is only about 70.

The report, *In Sickness and in Health*, a first for Canada, also shows Canadian women are having fewer babies and more abortions than they did ten years ago.

Canadians are no longer having enough babies to replace the adult population, the report says. The birth rate has been steadily declining since 1970 and hasn't been high enough to replace the adult population since 1972.

Meanwhile, the divorce rate has nearly doubled and the marriage rate has declined.

Between 1972 and 1980 the marriage rate decreased by more than 13 per cent — from 920 weddings a year among 100 000 Canadians to only 800 weddings.

In Sickness and in Health, which summarizes health statistics collected over the past 30 years in charts and graphs, is the first report of its type.

"We hope to do it periodically to provide a quick, pictorial reference for health trends in Canada," said Doug Angus, chief of health research and analysis for Statistics Canada.

Angus said that while motor vehicle accidents account for relatively few deaths, they rank first and second in the past decade in potential years of male lives lost, since young men tend to be killed in these accidents.

The report shows that heart disease is the leading cause of death for Canadians, but cancer robs Canadians of more potential years of life. "Medical advances have given Canadians a longer life but the foremost killers are those which are a combination of habits of life, environment and heredity," it states.

The report shows that 23 per cent more Canadians participated in sports such as swimming, cross-country skiing and racquetball in 1981 than in 1976, but only 3 per cent more participated in regular exercise such as walking, jogging, cycling, calisthenics or exercise classes.

While smoking among males has dropped off dramatically in the past 15 years, the proportion of females between 15 and 19 who smoke has increased and there has only been a negligible decrease in the number of females of all ages who smoke.

New aviation museum



Federal ministers Jean-Luc Pepin (Transport), Francis Fox (Communications), and Roméo Leblanc (Public Works) turn the sod marking the start of construction on the \$18.4-million first phase of a National Aviation Museum at Rockcliffe Airport, Ottawa. The new museum will replace hangars at Uplands Airport, Ottawa, that have housed the aviation collection since 1960.

Weathermen cited for their efforts

Thirty-three volunteer weathermen from across Canada received awards for their long service on the occasion of World Meteorological Day.

The Morley K. Thomas plaques were presented for the first time to volunteers who had been observing the weather for 30 years or more. The plaques were awarded at a number of locales.

There are more than 2 000 Canadian weather observers — housewives, farmers, small businessmen, retirees and others — who venture out once or twice a day to take readings. And while satellites and radar-imaging are revolutionizing weather forecasting, it looks as if nothing in the short term will replace the 90 000 unpaid enthusiasts around the world who keep track of the weather.

The reason is economic: "Ten or 15 years ago, I would have said we will see human observers replaced by automatic weather stations," said Morley Thomas, the director general of the Canadian Climate Centre in Downsview, Ontario, and someone who has worked with weather volunteers for 35 years. "...but now I think we need a breakthrough in cost for it to happen."

Installation price

The installation price for one of the 40 or so automated weather stations which have been placed in remote areas in Canada is \$20 000. It costs \$5 000 a year to service them. The amateur's rain gauge and weather station (it looks a lot like a bird house designer-created to match a ramshackle summer cottage) costs perhaps \$100 a year to install and service. The main additional cost is stamps and envelopes for the once-a-month mailing of weather records.

Environment Canada believes it would cost \$1.5-million a year to replace the amateur weather observers who provide information on the areas between larger monitoring stations which have professional observers.

Other benefits are hard to measure, because the amateur weather observers do more for their communities than a machine ever could. In the small farming town of Readlyn, Saskatchewan, 86 kilometres south of Moose Jaw, mechanic Frank Thompson is used to phone calls from his neighbours asking about his readings. Some questions relate to planting but others are of a more sporting nature.

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