

# News of the arts

## Photos by Frank Royal

A selection of the photographs by Frank Royal, well-known Canadian photographer, were recently exhibited at the Public Archives of Canada.

The 44 photographs provide compelling, and often stark, portraits of the environment. Royal captured the solitude of nature in various locales, including Canada's east coast, the Prairies, the United States' western desert and the Rocky Mountains.

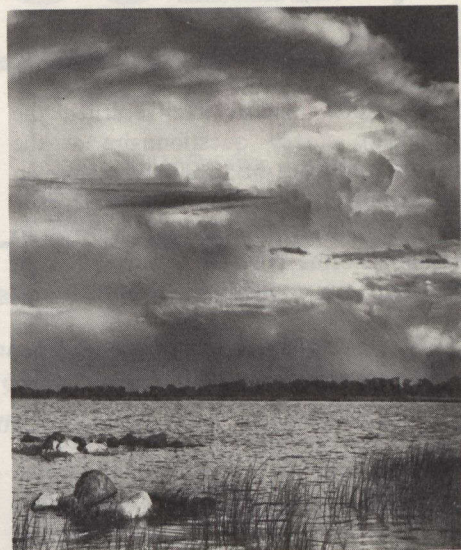
Royal began his career as a photographer with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the *Winnipeg Free Press*. During the Second World War, he took part in and photographed the Dieppe raid in 1942 and the landings in Italy in 1943.

A pioneer in a number of photo techniques, he served as chief photographer at the National Film Board for four years. In 1952, he became director of technical services of Gevaert Canada Ltd., film manufacturers.

It was in the last 25 years of his life, (he died in 1975), when he was not known as a working photographer, that



Public Archives Canada photos



Two of Royal's photographs in the Archives exhibition: Indian Church near Lillooet, B.C. (1969). and Storm over Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba (1967).

Royal produced the photographs shown in this exhibition.

"There is a strong affirmation of the self-sustaining powers of the natural world in this work," says Andrew Birrell of the National Photography Collection, Public Archives of Canada. "Royal once

explained, 'To see — not merely to look — is an act of perception that involves the mind as well as the eye. To photograph is to express this philosophy through the clarity of the photographic process.' This exhibition demonstrates the degree to which he realized his ideal."

## Stratford star ex-chorus

Victoria Snow, a young actress who turned professional only last summer, has been chosen to replace the leading lady of the Stratford Festival production of the musical *Happy New Year*.

Initially engaged to play a small role in the production, Miss Snow was chosen to understudy the major role of Linda by director Burt Shevelove when Virginia Sandifur, the leading lady, fell ill with pneumonia after only a week's rehearsals. Doctors said that Miss Sandifur would be unable to rehearse for at least two weeks, which led to a search in both Canada and the United States for an actress/singer to understudy the role. Shevelove, one of the most experienced people in musical theatre and a connoisseur of theatrical talent, decided that the young Canadian actress should have a chance.

Victoria Snow performed the role of Linda — opposite Edward Evanko and Leigh Berry — at rehearsals during the weeks that followed. When Miss Sandifur's illness forced her to withdraw from the production, Victoria was lifted — literally from the chorus — into the leading role.

## Canadian arts and artists boosted

The Canada Council has approved a policy giving new emphasis to the use of Canadian artists and works in determining the subsidies it grants to theatres.

A statement issued by the council recently says Canadians should be given "first and due consideration" in filling senior artistic and administrative positions in publicly financed theatres.

It also says most subsidized theatres should include Canadian plays in their programs.

Any theatre which appoints persons from outside the Canadian theatre community to senior artistic or administrative positions "should be able to demonstrate that all reasonable efforts have been made to fill them from within", the statement says. When non-Canadians are appointed, they should "have a knowledge of and commitment to Canadian culture and theatre".

The new policy does not override existing law, under which the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton appointed Peter Coe of Britain as its artistic director last year.

His appointment, like that of Robin Phillips as artistic director of the Strat-

ford Festival in 1975, aroused controversy because Canadians were not given the posts. Mr. Phillips has since declared his intention to remain in Canada.

The Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, committed to producing the works of George Bernard Shaw and his contemporaries, will be encouraged to do more Canadian plays.

"Unless the mandate of a given publicly funded theatre precludes the production of Canadian works, it should not be unreasonable to expect theatres to demonstrate a knowledge of and commitment to Canadian works by producing them in an appropriate space and in a manner consistent with the production values accorded other works," says the statement.

Anne of Green Gables will headline the Charlottetown Festival for the fifteenth time, but a new musical by Toronto writer Jim Betts, *On a Summer's Night*, will officially open the annual event on June 25. The third show on the main stage will be a return of *Les Feux Follets*, which played there in 1973.