

Omnisport products are now being marketed worldwide through a network of subsidiaries, joint ventures, partnerships and distributorships.

Microlight plane

In skies throughout the world, a new type of aircraft has appeared over the past five years. Partly traditional airplane, partly glider, partly powered hang-glider (the design's progenitor), the planes are known as microlights or ultralights and have become a popular way to experience the joy of simple, inexpensive and unencumbered recreational flight.

One of the most popular designs, the *Lazair*, is manufactured in Port Colborne, Ontario by Ultraflight Manufacturing Ltd.

It was developed by Dale Kramer, a 24-year-old aerospace engineering student who left the University of Toronto in his third year to devote his efforts to perfecting the aircraft.

The microlight airplanes, which usually weigh under 102 kilograms, have evolved from the hang-gliders of the 1960s and early 1970s. By the mid-Seventies, various efforts had been made to eliminate the need for cliff-side launching as well as to allow much longer flight endurance.

Dale Kramer, a glider and airplane pilot, saw some of these early models in 1977 and concluded that he could come up with something better.

The final result won an Experimental Aircraft Association award as best microlight and launched Ultraflight. The firm employs 21 people today.

The *Lazair* – the name is derived from lazy air – is sold as a kit, all 400 parts fitting into a 6 metre by 0.5 metre shipping crate. Assembly by the purchaser is estimated to take between 150 and 200 hours. The price is \$5,500.

It is a rather unusual-looking craft, having an open metal-tube structure with no enclosed



cockpit, and fabric or plastic covered wings and tail. Powered by a pair of 9.5 horsepower two-stroke engines, the single-seat *Lazair* requires little more than 30 metres for the take-off run or landing roll and becomes airborne at just 29 kilometres an hour.

Top cruise speed is 88 kilometres an hour and flight endurance is about two hours. A special boon of the *Lazair* is its ability to function as a glider, with the engines shut down, once the pilot has climbed to an adequate altitude.

Although there were virtually no government regulations concerning microlight flying in Canada until recently, standards for a microlight pilot's licence have now been formulated. Red tape is still kept to a minimum, however, and the requirements are much simpler than for a conventional private pilot's licence.

One of the most gratifying aspects of the *Lazair's* success as a commercial venture has been the volume of business from outside Canada.

Technology

European satellite contract

Spar Aerospace of Toronto has signed a \$65 million contract with British Aerospace to help build a new European satellite. Spar will build solar array and signal amplifiers for the L-Sat, a 50 metre long new generation communications satellite being built by the European Space Agency (ESA). Spar and British Aerospace are teamed with Selenia Industrie Electronich SpA and Aeritalia of Italy and Fokker NV of the Netherlands in the \$600 million project. When launched in 1986 the L-Sat will be used for TV communications, high-density telecommunications, voice, data and video links to small earth stations and high capacity inter-city telecommunications services.

The satellite will weigh more than 2,000 kilograms. The solar panels being built by Spar will generate up to seven kilowatts of power. At launch in 1986 they will fit into containers only 200 millimetres thick, stretching out to

50 metres when they are deployed in space about 36,000 kilometres over the equator.

Writers

Gabrielle Roy

One of Canada's best known novelists Gabrielle Roy died recently in a Quebec City hospital at the age of 74 of a heart attack. Prime Minister Trudeau described Miss Roy, a three time winner of the Governor General's award for fiction, as one of the most eminent writers of the post war period.

'Despite the recognition and renown which she earned in Canada and elsewhere, she never lost the human and sensitive touch which pervaded her works.'



A scene from *The Tin Flute*

Born in Manitoba, Miss Roy won acclaim for her first novel, *Bonheur d'occasion*, published in 1945 and translated into English as *The Tin Flute*.

The chronicle of Montreal working class life was described by Toronto publishers Jack McClelland as 'the' Canadian novel. Ironically her death came just as a Canadian cinematic version of *The Tin Flute* was being premiered at the Moscow Film Festival to favourable notices.

Alden Nowlan

Alden Nowlan was an award-winning poet and humorist noted for his compassionate and insightful writing. He died recently at the age of 50 in Fredericton, New Brunswick, as a result of complications brought on by a heart seizure.

Nowlan, who was inspired to write at age 11 after seeing a film about American novelist Jack London, was still writing when he was admitted to hospital June 11.

In the intervening years, he won a Governor General's award for poetry, a Canada Council special award and a Guggenheim fellowship for poetry.

Gold

Canada's newest goldfield

Hemlo, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Superior, is now firmly on the map as Canada's newest goldfield.

About 30 drilling set-ups are at work in the area and there have been 15,000 claims started so far. Estimates of what have been found are quoted as in the region of 14 million tonnes of ore averaging about 7 grams of gold a tonne. This at current world prices would be worth some \$2 billion (US), and the volume would equal about 2.5 times Canada's existing annual gold production.

The first mine to produce ore is expected to be in operation by next year, with production costs of less than \$200 an ounce, which compares with the current gold price of \$620 (Cdn).

Gold was first discovered in Hemlo in 1945, but it was not until many years later that large-scale mineralization became apparent. In this sense the deposits are unusual in that they are more like the reefs of South Africa's rand than the structurally complex deposits of the Canadian Shield.

Hundred dollar gold coin

The Royal Canadian Mint is bringing out a 1983 commemorative 100 dollar coin to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the landing of Sir Humphrey Gilbert at St John's to take possession of Newfoundland in the name of Queen Elizabeth the first, thus establishing it as the first British colony in the new world. Struck in 22 carat gold, the commemorative coin continues the mint's tradition of outstanding design selection and the finest craftsmanship. One side of the coin features



actual size