

News briefs

The federal government will provide funding to the Fédération des femmes canadiennes françaises, Canada's only national organization which represents francophone women outside Quebec. The government will contribute \$178,859 to the organization to help it co-ordinate its activities.

Disabled and elderly people living alone in Montreal will now have someone checking in on them every day as a result of an agreement between the Letter Carriers Union of Canada and the United Way group of charities. The postmen making their daily rounds will check up on shut-ins who register their addresses with local United Way affiliates. The arrangement, known as the letter carriers' alert system, has been in operation informally in a number of Canadian communities for several months. Under the agreement the union and the association commit themselves to extending the program everywhere in Canada where there is regular mail service.

Canadian wheat acreage is expected to total 30,117,000 this year, up 9.8 per cent from 27,422,200 last year, Statistics Canada reports. The federal agency said this year's wheat acreage will be the highest since the record year of 1967.

Dr. John Downing of the University



The schooner Bluenose II, Nova Scotia's seagoing ambassador, travelled this summer from its home port of Halifax to visit Quebec City and Toronto.

of Victoria in British Columbia has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors on the International Reading Association. The association is a non-profit organization devoted to the improvement of reading instruction and promotion of the lifetime reading habit among young people around the world.

Dome Petroleum Limited of Calgary has purchased all the shares of Davie Shipbuilding Limited of Lauzon, Quebec, one of the largest shipyards in Canada, for \$38.6 million. The acquisition includes Davie's Branch Lines shipping division, which operates a fleet of six small tankers — with a seventh on order at the shipyard — in St. Lawrence River and east coast trades.

Via Rail Canada Inc. of Montreal, which received federal subsidies of \$320.08 million last year, said in its annual report that profits were \$745,000 in the year ended December 31, up from \$422,000 the year before. Via, formed in 1977 to consolidate passenger rail services formerly operated by Canadian National Railways and CP Rail, carried 6.8 million paying passengers in 1980, up from 6.5 million the previous year.

Progas Limited of Calgary has received final approval from the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to export Alberta natural gas to four U.S. customers. Progas holds a Canadian export licence to sell a total of 602 billion cubic feet of gas to U.S. customers.

Canada's newsprint production capacity in 1981 will be 9.45 million metric tons, or 32.75 per cent of world capacity, and almost twice as much as the second-place United States, reports the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association. World newsprint demand in 1980 rose 3.2 per cent to 25.6 million tons, compared with a demand increase of 4.4 per cent in 1979.

Three of British Columbia's largest credit unions have announced formation of a company to develop an electronic funds transfer network to deliver services such as banking by two-way TV and retail point-of-sales terminals. One of the first services to be offered will be to install automated teller machines within the credit union branches.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced three allocations totalling \$704,278 (U.S.) under a line of credit with Bank Leumi Le-Israel B.M. of Israel. The transactions involving Control Data Canada Limited will create or maintain 29 man-years of employment in Canada, mainly at Control Data Canada Limited.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has awarded scholarships totalling \$1.1 million to 72 graduate students in housing. The scholarships are awarded to students pursuing master's and doctoral degrees in the social, economic, technical, environmental, physical and management aspects of housing. Successful candidates this year will each receive a stipend of \$7,500. In addition, to the stipend, the scholarship includes payment of university tuition fees, a travel allowance and support for dependents.

The leather-back turtle and the small white lady's-slipper have been listed as endangered species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. J.A. Keith, chairman of the committee, also said that a species of willow and a plant called thrift have been listed as threatened and Ross's gull has been placed in the rare category.

Du Pont Canada Inc. of Montreal has entered into a licencing agreement with ICI Australia Limited under which ICI will build a polyethylene resins plant in Sydney, Australia. The plant will have capacity of 100,000 metric tons a year.

Ontario Hydro awarded contracts valued at more than \$36 million in April. The largest was a \$4.9-million contract awarded to Litton Systems Canada Limited of Toronto for a security monitoring system at the Bruce A nuclear generating station.

The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association has approved the establishment of a women's hockey council and has given it a seat on the CAHA board of directors. The association said it will aim at promoting leagues for females in all age categories and ultimately national championships for women. There are 16,000 females registered with provincial hockey associations.

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