

## Gower-mobile — car of the future?

A Canadian inventor may become as famous as Henry Ford if his energy-efficient car becomes popular.

John Gower of Toronto has developed a car that will travel 113 kilometres an hour (70 miles an hour), gets 28 kilometres to a litre of gas (75 miles a gallon) and is expected to sell for \$3,000. The Gower-mobile, as it is called, is a four-passenger, two-metre-long vehicle that has no springs, shocks or bumpers.

"The lightness of it is the secret to the mileage," he says. The car will be constructed of tempered steel, fibreglass and various other materials, including graphite.

Gower, who helped design the vehicles used by U.S. astronauts on the moon, says he hopes to start producing the cars later this year.

## Retirement has risks

Retirement may not be the healthiest way to spend old age, a Statistics Canada study suggests.

Preliminary research on people collecting Canada pension payments shows a high death rate for men in the second year of retirement.

The rates for women were consistently low during the four-year period after retirement that statisticians examined.

The report's co-author L.A. Lefebvre says the low death rate for men in the first year seems to fit into a cycle as the so-called honeymoon phase, when retired people are enjoying their newfound freedom.

"This higher mortality during the second year could be accounted for by a deferred stress impact or by the onset of boredom and...disenchantment relatively soon after the honeymoon phase," he said.

Mr. Lefebvre has studied nearly 21,000 men and women who retired in 1970 to collect Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) benefits. More than 15,000 were men. Deaths were noted when CPP payments ended.

Statistics Canada recently reported that the population over 65 was seven times greater in 1976 than it was at the turn of the century. Their part of the work force has steadily dropped. A labour force survey shows that the proportion of workers over 65 dropped in January 1979 to 8.7 per cent from 10.2 per cent in 1972.

## CDC plans spending

The Canada Development Corporation (CDC) plans to spend more than \$2.5 billion in the next five years to expand existing holdings and make new acquisitions.

The company is looking at investment possibilities in the capital goods and process controls industries, said CDC President H.A. Hampson.

He said that about two-thirds of the expenditures would be in existing fields of operation.

The CDC, 66 percent owned by the Federal Government, has investments in six main areas — mining, oil and gas, petrochemicals, life sciences, electronics and venture capital.

The object behind the company's massive spending program is to raise profits to more than \$400 million by 1985, compared with \$36.5 million or \$3.08 a share in 1979. First-quarter profit more than doubled, but Mr. Hampson said results in the remaining three quarters are likely to post only modest advances.

The oil and gas subsidiary will spend more than \$70 million on exploration and development in 1980, including participation in a well offshore Labrador. Also, the company is participating with Tenneco Inc. of Houston, Texas in a \$30-million pilot project on an oil sands lease.

## "O Canada" honoured

Two postage stamps celebrating Canada Day were issued by Canada Post June 6.

The music and stylized portraits of the composers of *O Canada* were the subjects of the pair of commemorative stamps.

One-hundred years ago, the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec asked musician Calixa Lavallée to compose the



stamps. One of the postage stamps represents the first five bars of *O Canada*, and the other bears stylized portraits of Lavallée, Routhier and Weir.

## Device may open doors for deaf

A pocket vibrator about the size of a package of cigarettes may increase employment opportunities for the deaf.

The idea is to eliminate one more barrier that prevents deaf persons from getting jobs, said Robert Karn of Kitchener, Ontario, who designed the device which vibrates at the sound of an alarm. With one of these in his pocket, a deaf person will know instantly when an alarm goes off even though he cannot hear the sound.

Mr. Karn, an electrical engineer, also produced the coupler now being used on telephones in Canada to enable the deaf to communicate with one another by teletype messages. He has also come up with a device that will cause a lamp to flash when the telephone or doorbell rings.

The pocket vibrator, an acoustic pick-up device, contains a tiny microphone that picks up fire alarms, smoke detectors and other safety device sounds. It should enable deaf persons to work in industrial settings, safe in the knowledge they will be alerted by the vibrator to the essential sounds they cannot hear. Thus, they will be able to take jobs formerly ruled out because of concern for their safety.

Development of the device was financed by the Ontario government and is being produced and marketed by the Canadian Hearing Society Foundation.



music, and Judge Alphonse-Basile Routhier to write the words for a national song that would first be heard on Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, June 24, 1880.

It was not until 1908, however, when Montreal lawyer Robert Stanley Weir wrote an English version, that *O Canada* became well known in the rest of the country.

Friederich Peter, a graphic artist and teacher from Vancouver, designed the