

News of the arts

Canada honours Toller

Governor-General Jules Léger recently invested professional skater Toller Cranston as a Member of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Cranston, who only a few years



ago bewildered the judges with his unorthodox, flamboyant approach to free-style performances, won acclamation as a free-skater at the 1974 World's Championship in Munich and was the only world competitor given two perfect marks of 6.0. He placed first in his first national

competition as a junior in 1964, first at the Quebec Winter Games in 1967, at the Canadian senior competition 1971 to 1974, Skate Canada in 1973, and at the free-skating portion of the men's singles event of the World Championship in 1972 and 1974. He was a member of the ISO tour from 1971 to 1975. In February 1976, his performance at Innsbruck won the bronze medal.

Other talents

Author of a book entitled *Toller* and of several articles, Mr. Cranston has also appeared on British and Canadian television specials. Recently, he starred in his own professional figure-skating show which toured cities across Canada and the United States. Since then, he has performed in Europe and made his only recent appearance in Canada with the Minto Follies this month.

Toller Cranston is also a professional artist whose shows have been seen in New York, Amsterdam, Montreal and Toronto. Mr. Cranston, honorary president of the Christmas Seal Association, designed the Christmas seal stamps for 1976.

The Order of Canada was established on July 1, 1967 to recognize outstanding achievement and service in every important field of human endeavour.

Regina explores hot water energy

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources will give approximately \$3 to \$4 million to the University of Regina, Saskatchewan for its research on geothermal energy.

A previous contribution of \$60,000 by the Department allowed the university's energy research unit to compile information on the geological formations beneath Regina that are suitable for the production of hot water. The water is stored beneath the rocks of the Western Canada sedimentary basin.

The new project involves drilling and testing a well to confirm the presence of hot water and to obtain detailed information on the characteristics of the reservoir rocks and the rates of production.

If the results are favourable, it is expected that later phases of the project will lead to the drilling of a second disposal well and the construction of a building heated entirely by this new source of energy.

Commonwealth Games stamps

The eleventh Commonwealth Games, which will be held in Edmonton, Alberta from August 3-12, will be commemorated by the Canada Post Office with the issue of six stamps. The first two went on sale on March 31; the other four will be issued at the time of the Games, where at least 38 nations will compete in ten events.

The symbol of the Games is a red and blue stylized maple leaf. The first of the two stamps, designed by Stuart Ash of Toronto, features the Games symbol on a background of bands of silver-grey; the other depicts athletes playing badminton,



on the same silver-grey background. The bands will be a theme common to all six stamps.

"The Commonwealth Games have not been held in Canada since 1954, and I hope that this gesture will indicate the very warm welcome we wish to extend to all our friends in the Commonwealth," said Postmaster General J. Gilles Lamontagne.

Where it all began

It was in 1891 that Rev. Astley Cooper of Britain first proposed a gathering such as the one to take place in Edmonton this summer. He hoped to increase goodwill and understanding within the British Empire.

Teams from Australia, Canada, South Africa and Britain competed in various sports at London in 1911 to mark the coronation of King George V, but otherwise, little progress was made until the 1928 Olympics, when M. M. (Bobby) Robinson, a Canadian, proposed that Canada hold the British Empire Games