

Northern science award

John Ross Mackay, professor emeritus of geography at the University of British Columbia, has been awarded the first northern science award, the Centenary Medal, and a cash prize of \$5 000.



Professor Emeritus John Ross Mackay receives the Centenary Medal, Canada's first northern science award, from Governor General Jeanne Sauvé.

The Centenary Medal, created in recognition of the hundredth anniversary of the International Polar Year 1882-83, symbolizes Canada's participation with 11 other countries in the first international co-operation in northern science.

At the presentation ceremony in Ottawa, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs David Crombie said, "this medal is awarded in recognition of Dr. Mackay's important contribution to scientific research in the North. The northern science award will help to give recognition to the importance of furthering scientific knowledge and research for the development and future of Canada's North".

Dr. Mackay has been a pioneer in research on the effect of ice on the earth and waters of the North. For more than 35 years, he has contributed to the understanding of this area and has published more than 150 scientific papers on his research.

A number of honours and awards have been given to Dr. Mackay for his work including the Order of Canada, the Willet G. Miller Medal of the Royal Society of Canada, and the first G.K. Gilbert Award for Excellence in Geomorphology by the Association of American Geographers.

Centre's new agent in Japan

The Ontario Science Centre has entered into a joint venture with Science International Marketing Corporation (SIMCO) of Tokyo, Japan to have SIMCO represent the Centre's Japanese interests over the next ten years.

A key element of the arrangement is that SIMCO becomes the Science Centre's exclusive sales agent in Japan for present and future sales of the Centre's exhibits, merchandise and products.

In addition, SIMCO will continue the tour of a \$700 000 science circus it had already purchased from the Centre. The Canada Science Circus, as it is known in Japan, is a travelling mini science centre with over 40 exhibits, films and demonstrations illustrating the Science Centre's style of making science experiences participatory. In Japan the circus has already visited five major centres including Tokyo and Nagoya and has been seen by more than 500 000 people.

"As the Science Centre and its exhibits begin to attract more international attention, this step of appointing our friends at SIMCO as agents for exhibits and products in Japan is natural and appropriate," said Dr. J. Tuzo Wilson, director general of the Centre. "The relationship between SIMCO and the Science Centre has been a particularly rewarding one," he added.

White pelican population increase in Manitoba

Some of the islands in southern Manitoba lakes are being used as the summer home for the largest breeding population of white pelicans in Canada. While the white



White pelicans at Kawinaw Lake southwest of Grand Rapids, Manitoba.

Archaeological discoveries

Some important archaeological vestiges related to the architectural evolution of the fortifications of Quebec have been unearthed at the site of the Quebec Citadel.

The discoveries are the result of archaeological monitoring by Parks Canada of stabilization operations being carried out at the Mann Bastion by the Department of National Defence during the past months.

Masonry work of considerable size dating from the time of the temporary citadel built between 1779 and 1783 by British military engineer Twiss Workers has been unearthed in the gorge of the bastion. In addition, excavators have uncovered the traces of a walled-in passage on the right flank of the bastion.

As the postern is not referred to in any historical records, archaeologists suggest its origin probably dates back to the period of the French regime.

Further, the vestiges of a brick structure designed to protect the observatory's clock-work mechanism from lightning, have been found near the site of Quebec City's first astronomical observatory, built in 1850 on the terreplein of the bastion.

The discoveries are important to ensure that a number of aspects of Canada's military heritage will be conserved.

pelican is considered threatened in Canada about one-half of the Canadian breeding population of white pelicans, representing one-third of the world's total, can be found in southern Manitoba.

Biologists attribute the increase in pelican numbers to ideal habitat conditions and the protection afforded to its eggs, nests and young.

In the first year of a three-year study on colonial nesting birds undertaken by the World Wildlife Fund Canada and the Department of Natural Resources, biologists counted 20 000 pelican nests on 34 islands within eight Manitoba lakes. They also identified 15 kinds of waterbird nesting on roughly 200 islands.

Other survey results show double-crested cormorants and ring-billed gulls as numerous as have ever been recorded although eared grebes, western grebes, common terns and caspian terns appear to be declining. This is attributed to pesticide poisoning, marsh drainage, water-level fluctuations and human disturbances.