

# Mosaic

## NEWS

Things are happening in Canada these days — the **federal election** is set for September 4, the **Pope** will visit from September 9 to 20 and the **Queen** will tour New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba from September 24 to October 7 (postponed from the July 14 to 27 date because of the federal elections.) In addition, **Canada Day** was celebrated once again in style, the **Tall Ships** (about 60 from 15 countries) arrived in Quebec City June 26 to signal the start of Quebec 84 (a festival celebrating the 450 anniversary of Jacques Cartier's arrival in North America in 1534) and the **Big O** (Montreal's Olympic Stadium) will finally get it's roof. After 10 years of controversy, architect Roger Taillibert's original plans will be completed over a three year period starting early next year, at a cost of close to \$77 million. As yet it has not been decided whether the roof will be retractable or not.



Canada's Bluenose II

**Driver's Licences.** Beginning in January 1986, Ontario drivers will have their photos on their drivers' licences. The program will be phased in over three to four years, the licences will cost \$18 or \$20 instead of \$15, and it may be inconvenient to go to the examination



Canada Day celebration

centres each time to have your licence renewed; but it will eliminate illegal use of licences by people who shouldn't be driving, so it is considered necessary and worthwhile. To compensate for the increased price and inconvenience, the transportation ministry is considering extending the renewal date from the existing three years to five.

## HEALTH

**911 Emergency Number.** It is easy to remember. It will save valuable seconds in an emergency. The people have wanted it for years and finally it is coming to Ottawa. On July 11, Regional Council gave tentative approval to a deluxe 911 system that will centralize all emergency calls into one dispatch office staffed 24 hours daily. Before they make their final commitment though, about three months will be spent working out the exact details and costs, then it will be another 2 years before the program is operational. But, it appears that it is on the way.

**Heart Disease and Strokes** are the world's leading killers but the ranking of the other "killers" varies greatly between industrialized and developing countries. In the industrialized countries the ranking is: heart disease, 48%, cancer 19%, respiratory diseases 7.5% and infectious diseases .5%. In the developing countries it is: respiratory diseases 21%, infectious diseases, 18%, heart diseases and strokes 16% and cancer 6%. In terms of life style, the statistics speak for themselves. Other interesting statistics released by the World Health Organization on June 22 are that life expectancy ranges from 35 in Chad to 79.6 for Japanese women. For mortality rates, in developing countries 40% of all deaths are with children under 15, whereas in industrialized countries 68% are among people 65 and over.

**Will it be a boy or a girl?** A test now exists that can tell in advance the sex of your baby. It is called the "Gender Test" and is made by Walker Laboratories Inc. in Irvine, California. Presently the company is seeking approval of Health and Welfare and if granted, the product will be available in Canada within 3 months. The test is 98.9% accurate when used after the 6th month, and involves mixing a blue powder with a urine sample. If the test slip turns blue or brown, it will be a boy, if it turns green it will be a girl. The product is presently running into problems with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration because its approval was never sought.

**Computerized Nervous System,** Sam Khawam, 25, after being accidentally shot two years ago, was told that he would never walk again. On June 22, with his legs wired with electrodes and computers, he demonstrated to doctors and scientists that he could not only walk, but climb stairs.

The system, called "functional electrical stimulation", offers a glimmer of hope to paraplegics. By pushing a switch on a tiny computer on his waist, Sam is able to electrically stimulate his muscles to do what he wants. It isn't easy. It has taken 20 — 30 hours a week in a lab for over a year to be able to move as he does, but as he says "at least it gives me and other people in my condition hope that we will be able to walk again."



Sam Khawam

## TECHNOLOGY

**TV late night viewers** are now watching the new sign off version of O Canada which premiered on Canada Day. (The 1978 version was considered outdated). The 70 second collage includes fleeting shots of children singing, the Peace Tower, Gaetan Boucher skating at full speed, the RCMP Musical Ride, Evelyn Hart and David Peregrine of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the space shuttle's Canadarm at work, and ends with the Parliament bathed in color. On a large, color set, it is impressive.