

## First woman sea captain

Natalie Schwantje of British Columbia has become the first woman in Nova Scotia and perhaps in Canada, to qualify as a Class 3 fishing master.

Department of Transport computers do not record the sex of persons who have passed qualifying exams, but as far as the department can determine she is the first Canadian woman to qualify for the position.



Natalie Schwantje charts her future course as a fishing vessel captain.

The fishing master Class 3 papers were received recently by Captain Schwantje from the Nova Scotia Fisheries Training Centre at Pictou, Nova Scotia. The papers qualify her to be a captain of any fishing vessel of unlimited tonnage fishing in "voyage three" waters. That area includes all waters off the coast of North America to 120 miles from the shore, and extends to below the Panama Canal.

Students who take the Class 3 course must have had 24 months sea time on vessels larger than 14.15 cubic metres which worked beyond the smooth water limits. Captain Schwantje accumulated three years' working experience on the West Coast and on shrimp boats in Florida, where she took a deckman's course.

Captain Schwantje said there is a very professional attitude in the East Coast fishery, and she hopes to obtain employment in the region.

"For the most part the B.C. fishery is seasonal," she said. "Here there are a lot more large fishing vessels and a tradition I like."

## New petrochemical terminal

The British Columbia, Alberta and federal governments have announced an agreement on a new terminal on the northern coast of British Columbia for shipment of petrochemicals to Pacific Rim markets.

Under the agreement, the National Harbours Board will build the terminal at Kaien Island or Ridley Islands in time to handle petrochemical shipments from Alberta in 1984.

Ridley Island is also to be the site of a new \$200-million coal port and a \$260-million grain terminal.

Selection of a developer and operator for the onshore facilities of the petrochemical terminal is to be the responsibility of Alberta.

The three governments, represented at a meeting in Ottawa by federal Transport Minister Jean-Luc Pepin, British Columbia Industry Minister Don Phillips and Alberta Economic Development Minister Hugh Planche, agreed to co-operate with the appropriate environmental agencies to ensure the new development conforms to regulations.

## Canoeists to retrace historic trip

This spring 16 canoeists will re-enact a 1 272-kilometre trip made in 1648 from Quebec City to Georgian Bay.

The trip, scheduled for May, will retrace the water route from the Quebec capital to Ste. Marie Among the Hurons, a reconstructed mission near Midland, Ontario. Jim McKinnon, who is organizing the trip, said canoes have not made that journey since 1648.

The trip will attempt to be as historically accurate as possible with each of the canoeists assuming the character of a person who made the previous trip. A Roman Catholic priest from Midland, for example, will assume the role of a Jesuit priest on the 1648 expedition and will conduct the same religious duties. Food for the trip will be limited to corn gruel (an Indian staple), fish and game, and French Canadian voyageur fare.

The canoes to be used on the three-month voyage are being made with glass-fibre instead of birch bark, said Mr. McKinnon. He said that quality birch bark was hard to find and that the canoeists would not have the time to stop to do the necessary patching of birch bark canoes.

Mr. McKinnon recently travelled the

route — up the St. Lawrence to Montreal, up the Ottawa and Mattawa Rivers, across Lake Nipissing and down the shore of Georgian Bay — to line up campsites, arrange supplies of water and game and to acquaint townspeople along the way with the project.

## High tides and strong currents

The most treacherous part of the trip will be the stretch above Quebec City, where 16-foot tides and a strong current will hamper paddling. The party will also have to watch for ships along the entire stretch of the St. Lawrence.

Most of the canoeists are former workers at the Ste. Marie mission. To prepare them for the journey, tough fitness schedules and equally difficult historical readings have been assigned.

The participants are tested in both areas each month. They must pass written tests and take part in 80-kilometre snowshoe and ski trips. They must also take first aid and orienteering courses.

The trip in 1648 was made to supply the Jesuit mission near the present site of Midland, on southern Georgian Bay, with French goods. Five priests and 11 laymen, accompanied by 200 Huron Indians, were members of that party.

Several journals have survived from the 1648 expedition and will be compared to similar journals planned by members of the 1982 expedition to help measure man's impact on the rivers and their wildlife.

## Softball team qualifies for games

Canada's national women's softball team has secured a place in the 1983 Pan-American Games in Venezuela by winning a qualifying tournament in Mexico.

The Canadian team defeated six other teams to finish 11-1 in the tournament. They lost only to Puerto Rico, which finished second in the double round-robin competition. The United States placed third while Belize finished fourth. The top four teams will compete in the Pan-American Games.

Six women on the 20-member team have played softball with the Agincourt, Ontario team which won both the Ontario and Canadian championships last summer.

Before leaving for Mexico, the team played intrasquad and exhibition games in San Antonio, Texas. In July, the women will compete for the World Softball championships in Taiwan.