



The E38-001 evacuation survival suit designed and produced by Narwhal Marine Ltd. of Bedford, Nova Scotia, represents a new generation in offshore survival wear. Wearing this survival suit, which took six years to perfect, a person can survive up to 30 hours in the icy cold waters of the North Atlantic. Without the suit, survival time is estimated at no more than 15 minutes.

supply the needs of the country well into the next century Canada is in a unique position among the industrial nations of the world.

With the potential of developing even greater oil and gas resources, the enthusiasm for further expansion in the industry continues to grow. It is expected that there will be some 21 drilling units in Canadian offshore areas by the end of the 1984 drilling season.

## Fibre-optics car components

The Canadian subsidiary of one of Japan's largest electronic parts manufacturers, Alpine Electronics Inc., plans to increase its sales growth by selling leading-edge products for the computerized and digital car of the future.

Alpine Electronics of Canada Inc. of Unionville, Ontario, will begin selling car audio components that use fibre-optics next spring. The complete line will eventually include fibre-optic-based sensors, stereos, security systems and communication products.

The company is already well positioned to sell the expanded consumer product line with 60 per cent of the domestic consumer car audio market. Alpine Canada forecasts sales in 1984 of \$24 million, compared with \$1 million in 1979.

### Large market

"Based on population, Canadians seem to want "high-end" car audio systems, no matter what their income or regional background," said Alpine Canada vice-president Alex Romanov.

Company officials predict that the use of fibre-optics in automotive electronic systems will triple over the next five years. "In the not-too-distant future, a car will have one central electronic nervous system that ties everything together at the dashboard," Mr. Romanov said.

These products will perform many new and more complicated functions, such as monitoring the climate in a car, engine performance, a car's ride, permit sophisticated communications and, perhaps one day, navigation.

## New home for killer whales

A major expansion of the Vancouver Aquarium is scheduled to get under way this fall which should make this world class showcase of marine life one of the best facilities of its kind anywhere, reports *Canadian Scene*.

Since 1956, more than 12 million visitors have seen the live killer whale shows and other spectacular displays of living marine life at the aquarium. The facilities are located in Vancouver's Stanley Park.

Included is a live collection of more than 500 species involving 8 000 specimens of mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians, fish and invertebrates brought from all over the world.

The \$10-million expansion will give the three killer whales a new and larger habitat more closely representing the areas they frequent in the wild. The 5.5-million-litre pool will offer a spacious and more challenging environment featuring bays, beaches, moving water, water sounds and even a "rubbing area" for the huge killer whales.

"Marine wildlife resources must be protected for the benefit of our present and future generations," says Aquarium Society vice-president Gordon MacFarlane. "This can only be accomplished by expanding our present knowledge of marine environments and their inhabitants."

A revamping of present pools holding sea otters and the smaller beluga whales along with construction of the new killer whale habitat begins this fall. The hope is the giant mammals will be well entrenched in their new home by the time the 15 million expected visitors arrive in Vancouver for the world fair in 1986.

## Pacific sales soar

Statistics Canada reports that the trend in Canadian exports to Pacific and Asian nations has steadily increased over the past few years. Sales have grown from \$8.4 billion in 1981 to \$8.9 billion in 1982, to \$9.2 billion last year.

According to many Pacific Rim watchers, the remarkable and sustained growth rates of such countries as Japan, South Korea and Taiwan have been responsible for the trend.

The economies in each of the three have held expansion rates of 6 per cent for more than a decade, while many European countries and Canada have only grown at rates about half that amount.

The disparity is not expected to change in the immediate future.

### Canada, Asia-Pacific trade

(\$ million)	What we sell		What we buy	
	1983	1982	1983	1982
Australia	438	647	357	444
China	1 607	1 228	246	204
Hong Kong	221	243	820	699
Indonesia	210	206	40	30
Japan	4 728	4 568	4 409	3 537
Malaysia	114	118	116	89
New Zealand	122	156	157	140
Philippines	77	100	88	82
Singapore	127	150	168	164
South Korea	556	484	791	586
Taiwan	342	290	925	661
Thailand	146	144	61	34

Source: Statistics Canada