In this issue

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Published by
Minister
Cultural and Public Affairs
Canadian High Commission
Canada House
Trafalgar Square
London SWIY 5BJ

Design and production Christopher Stanbury

Printing
Tokenwood Colour
Printers Ltd

Acknowledgements
The Archivist, Public
Archives of Canada,
Ottawa

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Montreal

Au Courant, The Economic Council of Canada The Guardian Adam Hopkins

Poulter Computervision Systems, Leeds

Department of Communications, Ottawa

Canadian Education Association, Toronto British Association for

Canadian Studies

Books in Canada Toronto

Books in Canada, Toronto The Federal Cultural Policy Review Committee

Macmillan London Ltd

Subscriptions
Any change of address
should be notified to our
subscription secretary,
Keith Vines, at Canada
House

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3 Canada in space

Latest Canadian achievements in the field of satellite communications.

7 Thirty years of Canadian television
An historical survey of the development of
Canadian television and a look at the future of

broadcasting.

insert The new High Commissioner

An interview with the Honorable Donald Campbell Jamieson, who provides his views on Canada-United Kingdom relations.

9 Conversations with Margaret Atwood British writer Adam Hopkins talks to Margaret Atwood about her life and her work.

12 Telidon: the Videotex system of the future
A look at the Canadian Videotex system which
features the most advanced graphics available in
the world today.

14 Mosaic

Education – Bilingual education

- Quebec White Paper on

school reform

Trade – Computer taxis

PhotocopyproofSonobuoys

- Trojan hoists

Books – Robertson Davies – Christopher Pratt

John HolmesCharles Ritchie

Film – Michael Snow

Miscellaneous – Commonwealth Institute

Exhibition

– Arc on the Move

16 Bush aircraft on new stamp issue

Canada Post honours the men and the aircraft that helped open up the North.

16 Events

A summary of Canadian events in the United Kingdom over the next two months.

A new magazine

In this issue we return to magazine format. For the past four years, Canada Today in Britain has been published in booklet size theme issues, which allowed us to concentrate exclusively on a single subject.

A recent survey of our readers gave us some very constructive answers. Although there was general satisfaction with the theme issues, a majority expressed a preference for a wider variety of coverage that only a magazine can provide.

It is our intention to produce Canada Today magazine as a quarterly publication. Theme issues will continue to appear from time to time, to provide occasional comprehensive coverage of special subjects. A Newfoundland issue is now being planned to correspond with the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Newfoundland as a British colony by Sir Humphrey Gilbert.

Many readers expressed interest in an up-to-date news magazine which would chronicle contemporary events in Canada. However, there are other vehicles which provide a more timely package of Canadian news. These are Newscan, published weekly by Canada House, or Canada Weekly, produced by the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa. More comprehensive alternatives are subscriptions to Canadian newspapers or magazines.

With this magazine our purpose is to attempt to show Canada through a wide angle lens; to convey not only wilderness, spectacular beauty and enormous natural wealth, but commercial developments, a dynamic culture, innovative technology and the challenges of both remote village and sophisticated urban society. As a High Commission magazine we will be putting our best foot forward, but in so doing we will endeavour to present a balanced and accurate portrait of our country. We do not wish to present Canada through a veil of Rose Marie coloured clichés and we expect that our readers, with their criticisms and suggestions, will keep us up to the mark.

Our first issue includes feature articles on recent Canadian achievements in space technology; on Margaret Atwood, one of the leading poets and novelists in the English language; and the significant advances in information technology represented by our Telidon system. We are also introducing a section of shorter items which we are calling 'Mosaic'. This includes an events column which highlights a few of the many Canadian trade, cultural and other activities in the United Kingdom. In this issue, we are pleased to provide an interview with the new Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, the Hon. Don Jamieson.

We hope our magazine will be lively, useful and readable, and we look forward to hearing from our readers.

John Graham Minister, Cultural and Public Affairs