

More smokers butting out

Non-smokers now make up 60 per cent of the Canadian population 15 years of age and over, according to statistics released recently by Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin to mark National Non-Smoking Week, January 18-24.

A December 1979 survey shows only one in three Canadians to be a regular smoker. As with previous surveys, the number of regular smokers continues to decline — almost 2 per cent since 1977 and 9 per cent since 1965 when Health and Welfare Canada began to monitor Canadian smoking habits.

The survey shows a significant reduction (more than 10 per cent) in exposure of smokers to tar between 1977 and 1979. Compared to 1977, the tar content of cigarettes smoked in 1979 by males was over 8 per cent lower and by females, 12 per cent lower. In 1977, 43 per cent of regular smokers preferred cigarettes with the highest tar and nicotine levels, while only 18 per cent did so in 1979.

The survey results indicate that the cooperative promotion of non-smoking by volunteer organizations, federal and other governments is having a positive effect.

International student work program

The Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) is offering a program of international workcamps in 16 countries this summer.

These programs have been operating in many parts of the world for over 25 years through national organizations such as CBIE. The main objective of workcamps is to provide an opportunity for an international group of young people to work together on volunteer community projects. Participants benefit by experiencing the culture of another country, working with local inhabitants and assisting in problem-solving in that society.

Participating countries include: Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France, Britain, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, West Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Turkey, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

Canada will be offering six to eight camps this year for approximately 150 volunteers from abroad. Canadians may apply to participate in both Canadian camps or camps overseas. Applicants are

asked to select three countries in order of preference.

Camp projects

Each camp consists of ten to 25 volunteers. The work in the camps is physical or social in nature. Physical projects might involve constructing or improving hiking pathways, building playgrounds, or agricultural work. Social projects might include assisting in recreational projects for children in poor urban areas or working in institutions for handicapped children. Many camps are a combination of the two, such as painting and redecorating the apartments of older people or restoring youth centres. Physically handicapped people can participate in all but the most strenuous physical labour camps. No special skills are required of volunteers.

Most camps are three weeks in length, some may last four. Camps are held June through October, although the majority are in July and August. Participants must be at least 18 years of age for all countries (except West Germany which permits 16 year olds). There is no maximum age. Generally the working language is English except in francophone countries. A knowledge of the language of the country chosen is helpful but not essential.

Food and lodging, generally spartan, are provided by the host community. The participants are often housed in a local church, and make their own arrangements to prepare meals. Participants are responsible for paying their own travel costs to and from the workcamp site.

Solar designs win awards

Two Canadians have been awarded a North American solar energy design award by the Passive Solar Energy Society of America for their designs of solar-heated townhouses.

James Fryett and Joseph Somfay of Salem, Ontario, a small community about 20 kilometres northwest of Guelph, Ontario, submitted the design based on Fryett's thesis project from his fifth-year studies at the University of Waterloo.

Passive solar energy, the system used in designing the house, incorporates natural means as opposed to a mechanical system for transporting heat throughout the house. The building becomes a solar collector, storing heat with its own building material.

The townhouse uses such elements as south-facing windows, greenhouses and double-glazed walls, which absorb heat and radiate it through the living space.

Designed for a specific site in Kitchener, Ontario, the building would be situated in such a way that a minimum of surface area is exposed to the north. The townhouses would be built into a hillside, with unheated garage areas acting as buffers between the heat and the cold north wind.

The internal areas are zoned so that frequently-used portions are located in the south and storage spaces and entrances to the north. Solar devices are also positioned according to the needs of the adjacent living space.

First stamp for 1981 depicts musical instrument



It is on display at the *Look of Music* exhibition, which opened in Vancouver's Centennial Museum last November 2 and continues to April 5.

The stamp will be cancelled in Vancouver, British Columbia and Official First Day Covers will carry a Vancouver cancellation only. The stamp will be a special memento of the exhibition, where more than 300 rare musical instruments dating from 1500 to 1900 are on display.

The stamp was designed by Clive Webster and the typography prepared by William Tibbles, both of Toronto.