

Caribou herds roam close to home

St. John's, Newfoundland's capital, is the only major Canadian city with a herd of wild caribou at its doorstep, thanks to a conservation miracle and the rocky barrens that cover most of the province's south.

The 3 000 caribou roam the Avalon Wilderness Area, an 850-square-kilometre wildlife haven that lies amid towns, roads and nearly half of Newfoundland's human population.

Tourist attraction

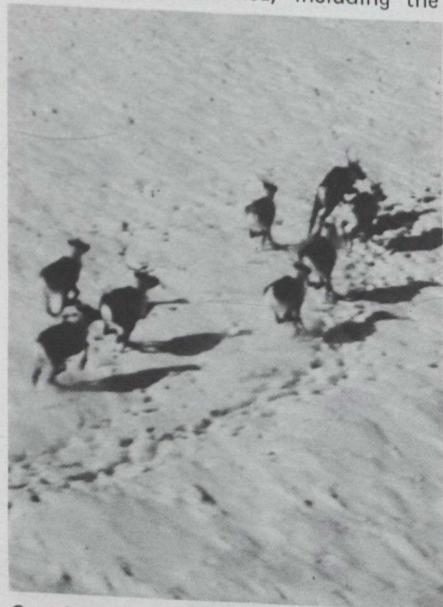
Nowhere else in North America are wild caribou so accessible. The herd has become a popular tourist attraction.

The Avalon Peninsular is barren country much like the northern tundra other caribou prefer. The gently rolling plateau was scraped bare by the ice-age glaciers, leaving a landscape of scarred bedrock littered with huge boulders, gravelly ridges and hundreds of ponds.

Except in wind-sheltered river valleys there are few trees. Blueberries and other ground-hugging heaths, dwarf-spruce thickets known as tukemore and peat bogs predominate. Snowshoe hare, moose, otter, trout, ptarmigan and numerous small birds thrive in the peninsular.

The Avalon caribou herd is unique in many ways, say officials of the Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division.

The peninsular supports more caribou for each square kilometre than any other area of North America, including the



St. John's caribou are popular tourist attraction.

largest individual animals ever recorded in a caribou herd.

It is also the farthest south that wild caribou occur, although this was not always so. Caribou once roamed much of Eastern Canada, but encroaching civilization wiped them out more than a century ago.

In the late 1950s, poachers almost annihilated the Avalon herd, reducing it to probably fewer than 100 animals. In 1964 the province responded by creating the wilderness area, removing poachers' cabins and improving its control over hunting and harassment of caribou.

By 1980 the herd had grown to 3 000 animals. Now it can support an annual hunting kill of more than 200 animals and is extending its range south.

People are allowed to visit the wilderness preserve, but they must have a permit. Canoeists, hikers, cross-country skiers, anglers and four-wheel-drive vehicle owners all use the area.

Top wrestler dies

Lord Athol Layton, one of Canada's best known professional wrestlers, died recently of a heart attack. He was 63.

A native of Sydney, Australia, Lord Athol Layton moved to Toronto in 1950. His wrestling career lasted 28 years and involved more than 3 500 matches. He later refereed and covered wrestling on television.

He was nicknamed "Lord" by a group of youngsters at a sports club in Australia who were impressed by his 1.95-metre height and 121.5-kilogram weight.

Enerstat slashes fuel costs

Engineers at Ottawa's Valera Electronics Inc. have come up with a product they claim can cut heating costs by about 15 per cent.

It is called the Enerstat, a programmable microcomputer thermostat. Once heating or air-conditioning is turned on and off at the times programmed it can be relied upon to operate until a change is required.

Although thermostat timers do the same thing, the single microcomputer chip that controls the Enerstat also has an "anticipating" feature that keeps the house or office temperature constant, avoiding the temperature fluctuations that occur in the normal operation of a furnace.

Valera has sold more than 60 000 basic models since the product came out in 1981. The small high-technology company recently announced three new models.

Valera president Ross Hamre says the company has already received more than \$1-million worth of orders for the new models, and customers include many international manufacturers of heating and air-conditioning equipment. He expects sales of at least \$5 million for the current year.

The newer Enerstat models can be programmed differently for weekdays and weekends, and all models take up to four temperatures in a 24-hour period.

The Enerstat thermostat products retail between \$150 and \$280.

World YWCA names first Canadian president

For the first time in its 89-year history, the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) has elected a Canadian as president.

The 84-nation association elected Mrs. Ann Northcote of Toronto, past president of the YWCA of Canada, to the presidency at its recent quadrennial conference in Singapore.

Mrs. Northcote succeeded Dame Nita Barrow of the Barbados who, a few weeks earlier, had been elected president of the Toronto-based International Council for Adult Education at its biennial conference in Paris.



Ann Northcote

The World YWCA, through its member associations, works to further the cause of human rights, peace and justice. As a member of the world association, the YWCA of Canada seeks to increase Canadian awareness of world issues and participates in exchange programs with YWCAs in other countries.

With assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency, the Canadian association supports projects in 30 developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific. Mrs. Northcote has been an active member of the Canadian YWCA for many years and prior to her election as president served on the executive committee of the world association.

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