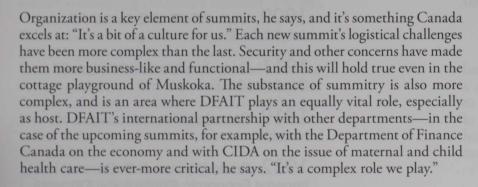
Reaching the Summit

hen world leaders sit down at unprecedented back-to-back summits in Muskoka and Toronto later this month, it will be a proud and poignant moment for Len Edwards, host-country Sherpa for both meetings. Edwards' attendance at the G-8 and G-20 summits will mark the

culmination of more than two years of his efforts on the world stage. The summits, notes the recently retired Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, will also showcase DFAIT's fine work in areas ranging from organization to matters of substance.

"It's in summitry where this department shines," says Edwards. He should know. Beginning in 1987, he has overseen the preparations for and agenda of some eight of them here, just one aspect of a 41-year career furthering Canada's multilateral relations in the world. "Summits bring to the fore one of our

fundamental responsibilities: bringing coherence, shape, frame and a strategic setting to our international presence and activities."



As he retires, Edwards says that it has been a time of change and challenge for DFAIT, yet "I leave very enthusiastic about what we've been able to do over the last two or three years to reposition the department for a strong future." He commends those who've worked hard on the summits—and then confides, "These things are huge adrenaline rushes. They are events you'll never forget



Career highlights: Len Edwards looks at a scrapbook he kept of the Toronto G-7 Summit.

as long as you live. They're highlights of your career and personal experience."

This issue of Our World celebrates DFAIT's shining role in summitry, explores its ties with partners and "co-locators" abroad, looks at Canada's commitment to multilateral forums such as the Organization of American States—where our mission turns 20 this year—and salutes everyone helping make the upcoming summits possible.

> Foreign Affairs and but Irade Affaires étrangères et Communes int-

> > 新 1 子 20亿

Rubum to Departmental Library

Welcome

to the New USS