

In this issue

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Front Cover:

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher receiving the first consignment of Canadian trees from the Hon Donald MacDonald, Canada's new High Commissioner.

3 Election result means free-trade agreement now going ahead

5 Canada's architects win popular support by blending past with present

7 Canada helps to restore Britain's storm-damaged woodlands

8 Export success won by Canada's aerospace industry

11 Canada wins election to UN Security Council

12 Champagne sendoff for Canadian fashions and designs

12 Archives help keep past alive

14 Mosaics

Events

– Commonwealth Games to be held in Victoria

Technology

– UK passports designed by Canadian technology

Education

– Vancouver to become distance-learning centre

Health

– Canadians win range of W.H.O. awards

Culture

– New Museum of Civilization takes shape in Ottawa

Heritage

– World Heritage Trust heads for Toronto in 1989

Sport

– Invention takes the dispute out of tennis line-calls

– Canadian wins UK ultramarathon

Award

– Canada receives British award

16 Exhibition of Canadian photography to be mounted at Canada House

Editorial

There is little doubt that the most significant event to take place in Canada in recent months was the federal election followed almost immediately by the convening of parliament to pass the necessary legislation to implement the Free Trade Agreement negotiated with the United States. The significance of this agreement is covered in more detail on pages 3 and 4, but one point is worth making here.

The new agreement is, I believe, an indication that Canada is prepared to take the risks necessary to realise its full potential. It was Vincent Massey, one of my predecessors as Canadian High Commissioner, who said of Canadians, 'We have never suffered from being too sure of ourselves.' If anything, we have suffered, at times, in the other direction.

However, I do believe that the Free Trade Agreement is a clear indication that Canada is throwing off that lack of certainty and is prepared to see just what the country is capable of achieving. I also believe that many people – both in Canada and abroad – will be very surprised to see just how much we can accomplish.

Changing perceptions

In this issue, we cover topics ranging from Canada's architectural styles, to its latest developments in aerospace technology. This, too, raises an important point.

All too often, it seems, Canada is viewed from abroad in simplistic terms as a country of moose, mountains and mounted policemen. These images may be rooted in reality, but of course they fall somewhat short of being complete.

In reality, Canada is a sophisticated urban country with a strong culture and an advanced

technology. Hopefully, the articles in this issue will help to give just a flavour of some of those other aspects of the Canadian reality.

Certainly, Canada has some things to say to the rest of the world in cultural terms, and it has some things to sell to the rest of the world in technological terms. It is that message that I will be trying to convey during my term as High Commissioner.



Donald S. MacDonald

Canadian High Commissioner