

## Polar bear behaviour studied

In an effort to find a way to deter bears from approaching people, Northwest Territory wildlife biologist Gordon Stenhouse and his assistant Kim Poole are studying the behaviour of polar bears.

This fall they will watch some 200 hungry, impatient bears who gather annually at Cape Churchill on Hudson Bay waiting for ice to form in order to hunt seals.

The polar bear is the largest land carnivore in the world, a cuddly looking creature of potential ferocity and of awesome strength; a 60-kilogram cub is stronger than any human being.

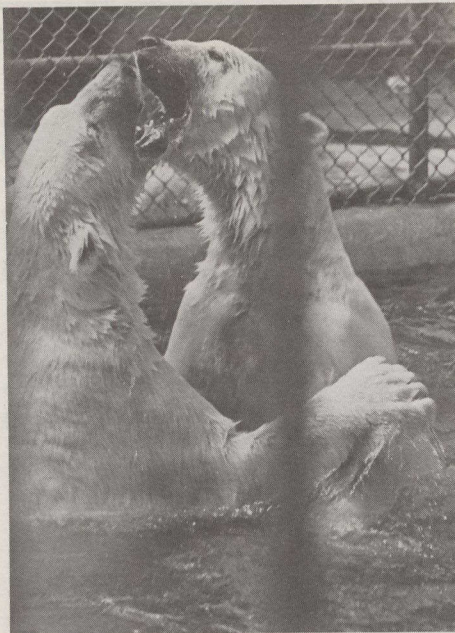
### Steel cage protects

To get a close look at the bears, Mr. Stenhouse will sit inside a large steel cage. To test the cage whale meat will be put inside while the bears are observed from a distance. If the bears prove unable to get the meat in the cage, Mr. Stenhouse will wait for an opportune time to move the meat 40 metres away, then get into the cage himself.

As bears usually shy away from noise, pamphlets distributed by the Northwest Territory government suggest making a noise like banging pots together, or firing a warning shot to frighten off the animals. But bears are curious creatures, said Mr. Stenhouse and while they tend to avoid man, they do not consider him a serious threat and often show no hesitation in investigating a camp or a drilling rig.

### Three-month vigil

Last year, in his first attempt to watch polar bear behaviour, Mr. Stenhouse spent three months in a tiny shack atop



a steel tower watching them respond to his deterrent systems: they chewed away his microwave alarm system; they crawled through his barbed-wire fence charged with 30 000 volts; and after he switched on a recording of barking dogs, they stood up, sniffed the air and resumed their approach.

Having to shoot a bear in his research would defeat Mr. Stenhouse's purpose, which is to find a way to reverse the rising rate of "nuisance kills" of polar bears in the Northwest Territories. Ten polar bears were reported killed by scientists and resource developers in 1978. The following year 16 were killed and 34 have been shot in each of the past two-years. Such killings are a concern to wildlife managers who have already imposed a hunting quota in each Arctic community to protect the bears and ensure survival of the species.



## Beaufort Sea gas find

Gulf Canada Resources Incorporated of Calgary has found natural gas at its Kiggavik A-43 well in the Beaufort Sea.

The Kiggavik well was drilled to a depth of 3 510 metres beneath the sea and during the tests, natural gas flowed at a rate of 438 913 cubic metres a day.

Oil was first found in the Beaufort Sea at the Tarsiut A-25 well in 1980 by Gulf Resources, a subsidiary of Gulf Canada Limited of Toronto. In recent years the company has been drilling a series of so called "step-out" wells to determine the size of the oil field.

Estimates of the size of the Tarsiut reserves have been as high as one billion barrels of recoverable oil. As a result of the latest tests, the company now believes the Tarsiut field contains about 350 million barrels of recoverable oil, said Gulf spokesman Brock Hammond.

## Marine science prize

Physical oceanographer Christopher J. Garrett has won the A.G. Huntsman Award for Excellence in Marine Science.

The presentation of the specially designed silver medal was made on October 27 at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia by the president of the Academy of Science of the Royal Society of Canada George Garland.

This international award, established in 1980, annually honours marine scientists who make important contributions to the future of oceanography. It is sponsored by the federal departments of Fisheries and Oceans, and Energy, Mines and Resources, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Canadian industry.

Dr. Garrett, originally from Bude, England, is a professor and researcher in oceanography at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia. He is recognized for his study on internal waves and for the development of models of tide in the Bay of Fundy to predict the effects of tidal power development. He has also contributed to areas such as global climate, ocean dynamics and deep-sea waste disposal and has studied air-sea interaction in relation to the generation of surface waves, mixing, circulation and changes in sea level, as well as the problems of fronts and upper and lower boundaries of oceans.

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