

from 1913 until he died in 1964.

Despite changes in the church itself and in the leadership at the monastery, they still go to the chapel eight times a day, get up at 4 a.m. for prayers, go about their work in long periods of silence and eat no meat except when sick.

Religious art

Visitors to Oka — best known by local residents today as Notre-Dame-Du-Lac — can also see a number of pieces of valuable religious art, including seven bas-reliefs sculpted about 1775 by François Guernon de Belleville. They were returned to the monastery's chapel this year after being restored by the National Gallery of Canada.

The chapel also contains a silver statue of the Virgin and Child done in Paris in 1731 by silversmith Guillaume Loir.

Consultants win Argentine contract

A Canadian consortium of Montreal-based consultants has been awarded a contract for engineering services for the \$1.5-billion Limay Medio hydro project in Argentina, Minister of State for Trade Ed Lumley has announced.

Under the contract the consortium will provide in excess of \$20 million of engineering services.

Minister Lumley visited the client, HIDRONOR (Hidroelectrica Norpatagonica S.A.) of Cipoletti, Argentina, in September 1980 with the principals of the consortium, and followed up with a meeting with Argentina's Secretary of State for Energy in support of the consortium's proposal.

The consortium, CANSORT, consists of Shawinigan Engineering Company Limited, Lavalin International Incorporated, Rousseau, Sauvé, Warren Incorporated, and Hydro-Québec International. Shawinigan is the sponsor of the engineering services under this contract, which will be carried out in association with the Argentine firm of consultants, INCONAS Servicios Profesionales de Ingeniería S.R.L. of Buenos Aires.

The initial services to be provided by CANSORT-INCONAS consortium include optimization studies, preliminary design, final design, and the preparation of tender and prequalification documents. One of the alternatives to be optimized consists of two hydro-electric developments on the Limay River.

Northern grants to increase

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will more than double its funding for northern scientific training during the next five years.

The government will increase its funding for training grants from \$425,000 in 1980-81 to \$925,000 in 1985-86. The funding will increase in stages over this period.

The grant program is aimed at developing trained personnel to work in the

North to seek solutions to social and environmental problems. Grants are awarded to students through northern studies committees in universities or non-profit institutes engaged primarily in northern research. The northern studies program has expanded from two universities in 1963 to 23 in 1981.

The grant program, which began in 1962, was designed to encourage young scientists to work in Canada's North, to help with their training and to stimulate northern research at universities.

Sherbrooke researchers improve properties of concrete

Two researchers at the University of Sherbrooke have discovered a way to dispose of an important source of pollution and at the same time considerably increase the resistance of concrete to compression.

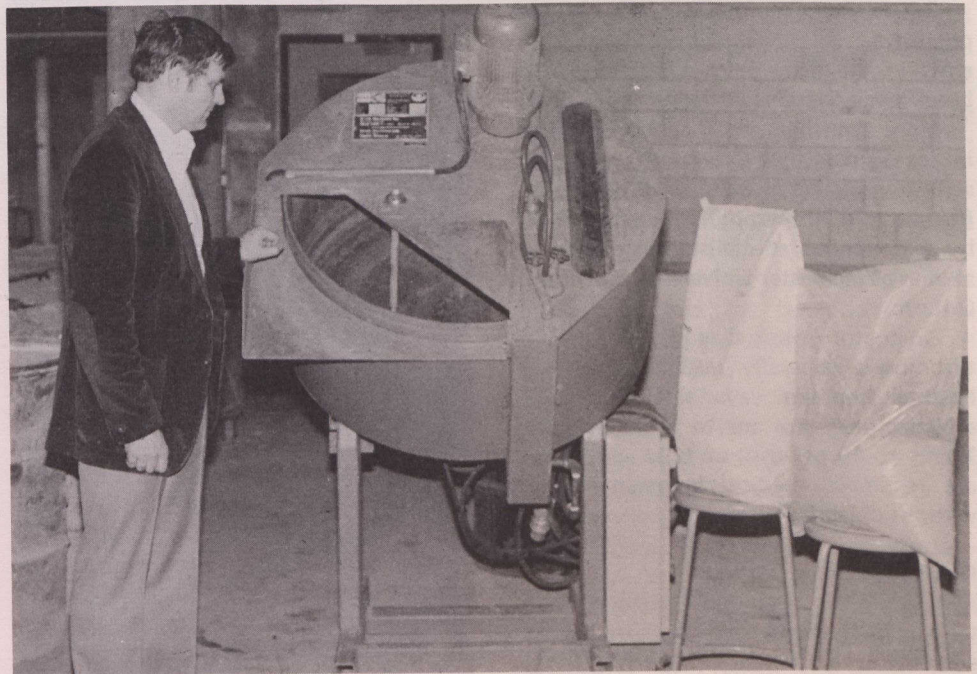
Pierre-Claude Aïtcin, a professor in the Faculty of Applied Sciences, and Philippe Pinsonneault, a researcher in the same faculty, started their work at the request of SKW Electro-Metallurgy Canada Limited, a company which specializes in the manufacture of silicon and ferrosilicon.

These products are obtained when quartz is reduced by carbon in an electric arc; as a by-product the process creates very fine particles of vitreous silica, particles a hundred times finer than ordinary

cement.

Mr. Aïtcin and Mr. Pinsonneault in their study proved that adding the sub-microscopic dust to concrete considerably improved its resistance to compression. Under certain circumstances a kilogram of silica dust produces the same resistance to compression as six kilograms of cement. However, there was a problem concerning the practical and economic transportation of the dust in bulk.

The two researchers developed a method of granulation based upon the addition of a small amount of a binding agent which creates granules that can be transported in bulk and are sufficiently solid that they can be handled without special precautions.



By the addition of a small amount of a binding agent, silica dust can be transformed into granules that are easily transportable in bulk. The photo is of Pierre-Claude Aïtcin, a professor at the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec.