

Order of Military Merit presented

The order of Military Merit was presented recently to 53 Canadian regular and reserve forces members in a ceremony at Government House in Ottawa.

Governor-General Edward Schreyer, Chancellor of the Order of Military Merit, and Commander-in-chief of the Canadian Forces invested the regular and reserve officers and other ranks.

The Queen is the Sovereign of the Order which was created in 1972 to recognize meritorious service and devotion to duty by members of the Canadian Forces. The Order has three grades of membership — Commander (CMM), Officer (OMM) and member (MMM).

His Excellency presented insignia to three Commanders, 15 Officers and 35 members.

Mining boosts city's economy

The city of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan is expecting another prosperous year as companies move in to mine the province's uranium.

"It would be an understatement to say that 1979 was a banner year for Saskatoon," says Dave Fairlie, the city's development director.

With mining offices moving into town, the total value of building permits reached \$250 million, an increase of 75 per cent over 1978. Residential construction was up 34 per cent; 171 new businesses opened; the population probably climbed to an estimated 150,000 and the largest supermarket in western Canada was opened.

The city scored another big industrial gain, an \$8-million manufacturing and testing plant for Northern Telecom Canada Limited's fibre optics operation. Within a few years, the plant is expected to employ 300 people.

While agriculture and potash mining were big factors in the city's boom, uranium was the catalyst.

Uranium companies spent \$80 million exploring the north last year. In the next ten years, exploitation of Saskatchewan's 500-million pounds of uranium ore will produce some 17,000 direct and indirect jobs, as well as, up to \$3 billion in provincial royalties. All this in a province that already has only 3 to 5 per cent of its population looking for jobs.

Program to aid whales and fishermen

On a cold, wet spring day on Conception Bay, off the east coast of Newfoundland, observers from a sailboat spotted five humpback whales circling around a trapped companion, writes Ed Walters of the *Canadian Press*.

The stricken whale, 17 metres (57 feet) long, had a net mooring wrapped around its tail, holding most of its body under water, and appeared in imminent danger of drowning.

It managed to get the blowhole at the top of its head to the surface for an instant to spout and draw in fresh air. Then it broke free, whistled, leaped like a trout in visible joy and bore away at high speed. The net was left in torn ruins.

Dr. Jon Lien, an animal behaviour specialist at Memorial University's psychology department, says humpbacks and other whales caused about \$2.5-million damage to Newfoundland's inshore fishery in 1979 in lost gear and down time. Gear destruction alone was estimated at \$500,000.

Dr. Lien now is in the third year of a program to find ways to keep humpbacks away from fishing gear. Some nets, such as cod traps, cost \$8,000 and there is no whale-damage insurance.

Humpbacks, an endangered species who give birth only once every three

years, are protected in local waters by a Canadian ban on whale-hunting.

After wintering in the Caribbean, between 2,000 and 3,000 humpbacks migrate to Newfoundland waters in spring. Some pass through the Gulf of Maine and others find their way to the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Overfishing of caplin on the Grand Banks and other offshore grounds has been blamed for the whales' shift to inshore waters. Offshore caplin fishing has been banned this year.

The caplin, which spawn by laying their eggs on Newfoundland beaches at the waterlines, move in to shore in June.

Feeding on the smelt-like fish, humpbacks apparently let their appetites override their natural echo-location warning system and blunder into nets.

Dr. Lien says several experimental devices have shown promise. The aim is to use something that will tell a whale a net or other fishing gear is in his way. Such a device has to be visible or audible to a whale but must not scare away fish.

An underwater bell, made of three pieces of metal and costing about \$2.50, appears so far to be most successful. The low-frequency sound it produces with wave action is of an irregular pattern and cannot be heard by cod.

John G. Diefenbaker stamp issued by Canada Post

A commemorative stamp honouring John Diefenbaker, Canada's thirteenth Prime Minister, was issued by Canada Post June 20.

A dignified profile portrait on a rich blue background enhances the design of the stamp, which shows Mr. Diefenbaker in a typical dramatic pose. By cameo effect it indicates a man of strength, sincerity and dedication. The stamp design was conceived by Bernard Reilander, an Ottawa graphic artist. The steel-engraved interpretation of Mr. Reilander's original artwork was executed by Yves Baril.

Another feature of the stamp was that the First Day Covers were cancelled in Saskatoon, the site of the stamp launch. The pictorial cancellation shows the top of the Peace Tower with the Canadian flag at half-mast. To the left of the stamp and cancellation is the envelope cachet design which features the quotation "I am a Canadian, Je suis Canadien". This quote is from the House of Commons debates on the Bill of Rights. Beneath the quote is a reproduction of John Diefenbaker's signature.

The stamp launch was held on the anniversary of John Diefenbaker's being named a member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada in 1957, and one day before he became Prime Minister.

