



## Visa card introduced

By DAVID WEBSTER

A new Visa credit card to be introduced to the York community promises benefits to alumni, faculty, staff — and some students.

The "YorkCard" will have all the functions of a Toronto Dominion Visa card, but part of the money charged on each purchase will go toward supporting projects at York.

The card will be available to anyone affiliated with the university who meets TD credit requirements. Only senior students will be eligible.

"Unfortunately one of the flaws in the programme is that the normal bank procedures apply," said Don Butcher of Alumni Affairs. "Most firms won't issue cards to those students in first and second years, particularly if they're just out of high school."

But students are still an important part of the programme, according to Butcher. Third and fourth year, graduate, and Atkinson College students will be eligible. Butcher encourages these students to apply for the YorkCard even if they have never had a credit card.

"We would like this to be their first credit card," he said.

York is one of several institutions that have adopted personalized "affinity cards." A normal affinity card is intended to benefit both the sponsoring institution and the cardholder without imposing financial burden on the bank.

A small percentage of charges to

the card goes to the sponsoring institution. On average, this cost to the bank is offset by the annual charge to cardholders. To encourage consumers to apply for an affinity card, there are no service charges in the first year.

The York affinity card will work in a similar way. The TD Bank will give \$5 to York on issuing a YorkCard, plus a small amount on every purchase. The money raised in this fashion will be divided equally between the York University Alumni Association (YUAA) and the Alumni Annual Fund.

Money donated to the Alumni Fund is distributed to projects which the university administration has decided are needy. In the past the Fund has supported everything from library books to research to new buildings like Fine Arts Phase III.

The amount to be raised will depend on how many people sign up for the card and how much it is used, said Don Butcher. Butcher also stressed the "very real benefits to the individual," of having a York affinity card. These include travel accident insurance, cheque cashing at any TD branch, emergency card replacement, and reduced service charges on bank services.

The new card will be pitched primarily to York alumni. All graduates living in Canada will be sent an application form during the fall. The YUAA plans to circulate applications to students, staff and faculty later in the year.

## YORKDEX

Percentage of total pub sales generated from alcohol: 51.5

Number of beer kegs York pubs emptied last year: 1231

Pub with the greatest profit in 86/87: Cock and Bull (\$26,344)

Pub with the greatest loss in 86/87: Orange Snail (-\$16,344)

Average distance Physical Plant's Grounds and Vehicles drive each year: 282,000 km.

Average distance the Inter-University Transit System (IUTS) vehicles drive each year: 630,000 km.

Amount of propane in litres Physical Plant's Grounds and Vehicles consume each year: 115,000

Amount of gasoline in litres: 16,000

Amount of diesel fuel: 9,500

Cost per year of the above noted fuel: \$36,000

Acres of turf mowed by Physical Plant's Grounds and Vehicles each year: 460

Figures cited are latest available

Compiled by Lorne Manly and Adam Kardash

## ISTS centre slowly progressing

By ELAN KATTSIR

It has been over a year since it was announced that a space and terrestrial research centre would be established at York University.

The Institute for Space and Terrestrial Science (ISTS) was one of seven successful entrants in a provincial competition for Centres of Excellence, a \$200-million programme intended to make Canada less dependent on foreign technology by encouraging collaboration between universities and industry.

Funding for ISTS is \$40-million over five years, with a "significant proportion" of that money going to on-campus projects, according to ISTS Financial Officer Don Waugh. The remainder is allotted to other post-secondary institutions collaborating with the Centre.

More direct collaboration is taking place between industry and university representatives. Each project is headed by a professor, and is situated primarily on university grounds. It is also mandatory that each project be sponsored by a

space-technology company. These companies, which include Spar Aerospace, Barringer, and Honeywell—will provide the projects with valuable expertise in real-world situations.

Waugh suggests that this relationship is a new approach, one that depends on the two participants "drawing on each other's strengths."

Representatives are already sharing information, expertise, and points of view, thereby reducing communication barriers between the two sectors. They are also speeding and intensifying the transfer of information between university and industrial investigators, resulting in research that is more sensitive to industrial needs.

While ISTS researchers are already active, the Centre's facilities at York are still far from being fully operational. Labs housed in the Petrie Science Building are operating satisfactorily, but labs assigned to the Computer Methods Building (located at the north-east corner of

campus) will not be occupied until November 1.

An additional building to be built by the York University Development Corporation and rented out by ISTS requires University approval before construction begins. The building will be located between Bethune and the Petrie Science Building, and isn't expected to be ready for at least two to three years.

The ISTS is still attempting to fill its Executive Director position, which has been filled on an interim basis by Dr. Larry Morley since April 1987. All other administrative positions and 60 percent of the technical positions have been filled.

Although the ISTS was only officially established in January 1988, a requirement that it be self-sufficient in five years already looms over the Centre. Since the ISTS emphasizes theoretical rather than applied research, Waugh said that "this is a large challenge," but added that it is one that everyone at the ISTS is ready to meet.

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- Letter of intent due November 1, 1988

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