

## Canada-China exhibit exchange

The Ontario Science Centre has signed an agreement with China for a major exchange of exhibits, according to the centre's director-general Tuzo Wilson.

Dr. Wilson said the agreement was signed in Peking with a preparatory committee of the Chinese Palace of Science and Technology, which is to be constructed in Peking. A three-man Chinese delegation visited Toronto to confer with Ontario Science Centre staff.

"The Chinese have been here on several occasions," Dr. Wilson said. "They want to build a science museum, and this is the one they want to copy."

He said the Chinese sent exploratory delegations throughout the United States and Europe before deciding on the Ontario centre's format for public exposure to science in a "hands-on" exhibit context.

Duplicates of existing exhibits at the Ontario Science Centre are being manufactured by Ontario industry for dissemination in the United States and Europe, under the licence and supervision of the centre. A number of these are to be sent to China, though details as to which exhibits are involved have not been decided.

## Stamp honours labour leader

Canada Post recently issued a 17-cent stamp in honour of Aaron Mosher, founder of the Canadian Labour Congress.

"The labour movement in Canada owes a great deal to this man," said Postmaster-General André Ouellet in issuing the stamp. "From the very start, in the labour force of the Intercolonial Railway in Halifax, he took up the cause of unfairly treated workers and continued to do so all his life," he said.

Aaron Roland Mosher was born near Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1881. He went to work in 1903 for the Intercolonial Railway in Halifax, where in 1907 he led a successful strike for better pay and working conditions. At Moncton, New Brunswick in 1908 he helped found, and became Grand President of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees. In 1927 Mosher formed the All-Canadian Congress of Labour, a group of Canadian unions. The first and only president of this organization, he united it in 1940 with the Canadian branches of the Congress of Industrial Organizations to form the Canadian Congress of Labour (CCL), which also appointed him president. The CCL merged with the Trades and Labour Congress in 1956 to form the Canadian Labour Congress; Mosher was named honorary president and was elected to the Labour Hall of Fame.

Mosher was a founding member of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. His war work earned him the Order of the British Empire. He died in 1959.

The stamp, designed by Roger Hill of Toronto, features a portrait of Mosher flanked by two railway workers.

## Gasohol could reduce soil fertility

Canadian agricultural researchers have found that using crop residues for gasohol could ultimately reduce the fertility of the soil.

Farmers around the world are increasingly using crop residues and other agricultural products to produce energy. Studies at Agriculture Canada's Lethbridge Alberta research station show that removing crop residues from fields instead of working them into the soil changes the carbon-nitrogen and mineral cycles in the soil. Ultimately this will result in reduced fertility and poor soil stability, said J.F. Dormaar, a soil chemist at the research station.

For a soil to be stable, it requires adequate organic matter to bind particles together. Because organic material is constantly being consumed by the microorganisms found in the soil, the soil needs to be replenished with a steady supply of organic matter.

"Crop residues have traditionally provided the soil with the organic matter it needs," said Dr. Dormaar.

He also pointed out that for the soil to produce good crops, it must possess substantial water and nutrient-holding ability, good aeration and microorganisms

that help break down plant material. All of these characteristics depend on humus derived from crop residues.

Results from permanent sample plots set up 70 years ago at the station point to the important role of organic matter in the soil.

"Stirring the soil by regular cultivation, for example, results in a decline in humus, in less effective binding of soil particles, and in breakdown of soil structure," said Dr. Dormaar.

Adding manure or introducing crop residues back into the soil alters these trends and helps protect the soil from wind erosion.

## Fruit tree for rent

An enterprising Canadian orchard owner has devised a novel way of providing apple-lovers with the fruit.

Eric Boultee, who owns an orchard in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley, has begun an operation called Rent-a-Tree and for \$60 to \$140 a consumer can rent an Okanagan tree and receive all the fruit that it produces. The consumer decides what kind of apples he wants — McIntoshes, Reds or Golden Delicious — then rents a tree to suit his needs. The largest tree yields about 500 apples.

Delivery of the fruit costs an additional \$100 and is guaranteed even if the tree of one's choice falls victim to blight. Boultee said the cost of renting a tree is about the same as buying fruit in the supermarket but he insisted that his product is much fresher. Boultee said he expected his customers to be split between apple-lovers and companies seeking unique gifts for their employees. Plans for next year include renting citrus trees in California.

## Ancient Indian site found

A native cabin site that is probably 500 years old has been discovered by a research crew from the University of Western Ontario.

The site, on a knoll, is believed to have been a summer residence for Neutral Indian women, children and elderly people who cultivated surrounding corn crops.

Although historical documents say the extinct Neutrals established outlying cabins for crop cultivation, the findings could be the first archaeological evidence that proves the documents.

