

In this issue

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Research by
Jennifer Rae-Brown

ERRATUM
We apologise for misquoting the telephone number of Chinook-it in our November issue. This UK tour operator's number should read 071 701 3309.

Subscriptions
Any change of address should be notified to our subscription secretary, Keith Vines, at Canada House.

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The other Canadian government office in the United Kingdom

Canadian High Commission
Macdonald House
1 Grosvenor Square
London W1X 0AB
Tel: 071-629 9492

Front cover
Artist's view of Radarsat tracking over Canada, courtesy of Canadian Space Agency.

Radarsat is a Canadian-led project involving the USA, several provinces and the private sector. This sophisticated remote sensing satellite will be launched in 1994. It will carry a powerful microwave instrument that transmits and receives signals to 'see' through clouds and darkness, obtaining detailed images of Earth. It will map renewable resources, helping agriculture, forestry, shipping, oil exploration and ocean research.

Illustration: Paul Field

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Editorial

Canadians are proud of their heritage; their country and the richness and diversity of their accomplishments. So the 125th anniversary of Canada as a nation – the founding of Confederation – will be celebrated joyously. *Canada 125* provides an opportunity not only to celebrate but also look to the future with a constitution renewed to meet the needs and expectations at the beginning of its next 125 years. Our lead article discusses these issues and how we will address them.

The year will also see celebrations of other historic events: 350 years ago French missionary Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve founded the first permanent settlement on the Saint Lawrence River – now Montreal. Festivals, concerts, firework displays and exhibitions across Quebec will mark the anniversary, and provide added excitement for visitors to Canada.

This is also the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Highway, linking the USA through British Columbia. It was built in eight short months during World War II. Also in 1942 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police supply ship, the St. Roch, made the first west – east crossing through the Northwest Passage.

Part of the rich mosaic of Canada are the Mennonites and Hutterites. An exhibition of their furnishings at the Canada House Gallery will present their craftsmanship as part of a series of events marking *Canada 125* and the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in America.

Of course, great past achievements should be put into perspective. Remembering momentous occasions gives us the strength to go forward – on our past successes are built the advances of the world and its people. Canada is at the forefront, as evidenced by a revolutionary concept in the sharing of scientific data and expertise to benefit researchers and industry, at home and abroad. The network of Centres of Excellence was created with Canadian government support in 1988 and already boasts 15 areas of leading science and 4000 researchers.



Canadian High Commissioner