Breakthroughs and Breakdowns

1981-89

THE EASTERN BLOC AND THE COLD WAR DISAPPEAR. CALGARY HOSTS THE 1988 WINTER OLYMPICS.

NRC has some interesting connections with the Olympics. For instance, before the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, NRC designed the Olympic torch and provided a special fuel mixture to keep the flame burning, helped the Canadian ski team train in its wind tunnels, and improved the runners on Canadian bobsleds. NRC developed an optical security patch, made of super-thin ceramic layers, that changes colour in different lights. The



patch is used on such things as paper money and drivers' licences to prevent counterfeiting or fraud.

Bogus bucks Banished

Virtualizing A laser scanning camera developed by Marc Rioux and others at NRC can make accurate 3-dimensional digital copies of objects in full colour and store them in a computer database. With this new technology, it is now possible to scan and store rare or fragile objects for use in virtual museums, and for scientific studies.



Mussel mystery solved



Eating shellfish has been safer than ever since 1987, when a team of NRC researchers quickly tracked down a poison called domoic acid that is found in some mussels. Dr. Jeffrey Wright, who led the NRC research team, was named to the Order of Canada in 1993.

NRC's Dr. Saran Narang

made a major medical breakthrough when he produced synthetic human insulin for use by diabetics. For his work Narang was awarded the Order of Canada in 1985.



- milestones
 - Improvements to design of ocean drilling platforms
 Advances in telecommunications technology
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 - Canadian Astronomical Data Centre established in 1986 to capture data from Hubble Space Telescope
 - Excimer laser technology for improved heart surgery