
Military colleges observe anniversary

September marked the thirtieth anniversary of the beginning of tri-service military colleges in Canada, when for the first time classes of navy, army and air force cadets merged to begin their studies.

At the reopening ceremonies of the Royal Military College (RMC) at Kingston, Ontario in September 1948, the late Brooke Claxton, then Minister of National Defence, declared that it was "desirable that any cadet college training men for the defence of the country should be on a tri-service basis, that the segregation of services into compartments should not be started at the age of 17 or 18".

Only two Canadian Services Colleges existed then — RMC (founded in 1876) and the newly established Royal Roads at Victoria, British Columbia — until 1952, when they were joined by a bilingual institution, Collège militaire royal de Saint-Jean (CMR) at St. Jean, Quebec.

Now the colleges provide young officers with a sound academic and military background for the unified Canadian Armed Forces. About 220 graduates become commissioned officers with the Canadian Forces each year. Cadets, who must be between 16 and 21 years old when enrolled, are usually allowed to choose upon entry to the college their assignment to one of navy, army or air force components upon graduation.

Since 1952 most cadets have been completely subsidized while at the colleges under the Regular Officers Training Plan (ROTP), which commits graduates to enter the Canadian Forces and serve a minimum of four years. Many go on to long and distinguished military careers.

A few cadets are reservists, pay their own way, and have no military obligation except to be called up in a national emergency. They do, however, serve their respective units as paid cadet officers during the summer.

University degrees offered

It wasn't until 1959 that RMC was given degree-granting authority in arts and sciences. In 1962, they were allowed to grant their first engineering degrees. Royal Roads and CMR have degree-granting powers in some disciplines — CMR since 1969 through the University of Sherbrooke, and Royal Roads since 1975.

Most courses offered are comparable

to those offered in large civilian universities — such as honours and general degrees in science, engineering, English, French, history and commerce. Courses in military leadership covering psychology, sociology of leadership and management are mandatory. Post-graduate studies at RMC have also recently begun.

The schools also claim graduates who have won Rhodes scholarships and distinguished themselves in the corporate as well as the military field.

Canada/Haiti air transport pact

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and Minister of Transport Otto Lang announced recently that an air transport agreement between Canada and Haiti was signed October 12 in Ottawa.

Under the agreement, Air Canada will be authorized to operate a scheduled service from any point in Canada to Port-au-Prince and will have the right to carry local traffic between Port-au-Prince and a point beyond to be named by Canada and another point in the Caribbean yet to be determined. The Haitian designated airline will be authorized to serve Montreal from any point in Haiti via a point in the Caribbean to be named by Haiti and a point in the United States still to be determined. The Haitian Airline will have the right to carry local traffic between the intermediate point in the Caribbean and Montreal and will have transit rights at the point in the United States.

Air Canada will be starting its service between Mirabel Airport, near Montreal, and Port-au-Prince on October 29 with one flight each week.

Tribute to Toronto doctor

"A member of the Order of Canada and the recipient of the Award of Merit of the City of Toronto... [who] will long be remembered for his extraordinary contribution to this community. There is no more fitting symbol of that contribution than the hospital he helped create." This was the tribute by Toronto City Council to Dr. John Rekai, co-founder of Toronto Central Hospital, who died recently. The hospital serves mainly the immigrant population in Toronto.

Born in Hungary, Dr. Rekai graduated in medicine from the University of Buda-

pest in 1938. He arrived in Canada in 1950, accompanied by his brother, Dr. Paul Rekai, and in the following year they set up medical practice in Toronto. They soon became convinced that, with its growing population of immigrants, the city needed a hospital where patients could be dealt with in their own languages. As Dr. Rekai once explained, "an immigrant can go into a shop and point out his needs, but in the intimate matters he discusses with his doctor, language fluency is essential. And in a medical emergency, it is a matter of life or death to understand him properly".

The brothers spoke French, German, Italian and Hungarian as well as English, and when they opened their hospital in 1957 they had interpreters available who spoke another 20 languages. Their example prompted the Ontario Ministry of Health to provide translation services in most hospitals in the province.

Minister in world food debate

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan took part in the United States Public Broadcasting System program, *The Fight for Food*, filmed in Washington, D.C., September 29.

The program is part of the Global Papers Forum, a television series analyzing such international problems as food development, aging and health, justice and urbanization.

The first paper, on feeding the world, will consist of two one-hour programs to be broadcast November 12 and 13. They will be followed by a 90-minute forum examining world food production and security.

Mr. Whelan will take part in this forum, with 25 top U.S. policy-makers, business leaders and international journalists, who debate the question: "Is it inevitable that millions of the world's people must suffer the ravages of malnutrition, hunger and famine in the future as they have in the past?"

The day's program includes a one-hour discussion between Mr. Whelan and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland on national and international food priorities. Moderator for the discussion is Ray Goldberg of Harvard University's School of Business.

The 90-minute special will be seen on the PBS network on November 16, at 9 p.m.