

sion in 1979 is \$218.06 a month.

Disability benefits: One must have contributed in at least five of the last ten years and must be judged to be disabled within the meaning of the Canada Pension Plan legislation. The amount of the Disability Pension is a flat rate component of \$52.51 a month plus 75 per cent of the current value of the retirement pension. The maximum disability pension in 1979 is \$216.06 a month. Benefits for dependants are \$52.51 a month for each dependent child of the disabled contributor.

Survivor's benefits: The deceased must have contributed one-third of the years since 1966 or since age 18 and have a minimum of three years of contribution. The Death Benefit payable to the estate of a deceased contributor is six times the current value of the retirement pension but not exceeding 10 per cent of the years' maximum pensionable earnings. The maximum amount in 1979 is \$1,170. Spouses Pension is payable to the eligible spouse of the deceased contributor. The amount of pension for a spouse under 65 years of age is a flat rate component of \$52.21 plus 37.5 per cent of the current value of the retirement pension maximum in 1979 — \$134.28 a month. For a spouse age 65 or over, the pension is 60 per cent of the current value of the retirement pension, the maximum in 1979 of \$130.84. Orphans Benefits are the same amount as for dependent children of a disabled contributor.

1979 — maximum pensionable earnings: \$11,700; basic exemption: \$1,100; maximum contributions — employee \$190.80, employer, \$190.80; self-employed, \$381.60.

Clans gather in Nova Scotia

The first International Gathering of the Clans to be held outside Scotland will be in Nova Scotia from June 28 to August 12. The Gathering, combining the existing Scottish festivals with meetings of over 30 clans, will run in various locations throughout the province, where about 70 per cent of the population is of Scottish descent. It will be officially opened by Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother at the Halifax Metro Centre on June 28.

In Cape Breton, activities of the first weekend will include the Baddeck Handcraft Festival, featuring a handcrafts display and demonstrations on everything

from shearing to weaving to fashions. Not far from Baddeck the Annual Mabou Ceilidh will take place. Beginning with a bilingual (English and Gaelic) ecumenical service, the ceilidh will feature sheep shearing and sheep dog exhibitions, followed by a lamb barbecue and a fresh salmon dinner.

On the mainland for the opening weekend, the Highland Games are planned for Pugwash, offering contrast to the International Thinkers Conference, during which the contribution of the Scot to the Canadian community will be considered. Scottish authorities on literature and culture will be in attendance.



The Clan Fraser will gather on July 5, 6 and 7 in New Glasgow, while 200 Scottish Fiddlers will travel to Glendale, Cape Breton for the Biannual Festival of Scottish Fiddling, July 6, 7, and 8.

The Antigonish Highland Games, which rivals in size some of the major games in Scotland, takes place in Antigonish from July 7 to 15. As well as the Highland Sporting and Athletic Competitions, there will be concerts, "kilted" golf tournaments, the International Gathering Pipe Band Championships, Highland Dance Championships, and Scottish National Dance Championships.

The Halifax/Dartmouth week, beginning July 16, is also the International Scottish Country Dance Week, attracting over 200 dancers. In addition, there will be a Cape Breton Club Ceilidh, a Highland Banquet and Ball with Scottish music, and a Festival of Piping. Clans gathering that week include Clan Donnachaidh, Clan Monro, and Clan Colquhoun.

Sydney, Cape Breton is the host from July 23 to 29, offering ceilidhs and, on

the weekend, the Sydney Highland Games. Iona, Cape Breton will host a gathering of the Clan MacNeil that will culminate with the Iona Highland Village Day on August 4. The Highland Village offers an opportunity for people to see the housing of the first Scottish Highland settlers in the region.

The final week will include the Highland Games at Trenton, Nova Scotia at the Festival of the Tartans, from August 6 to 11. The Clan Matheson will gather at the Gaelic College in St. Ann's, Cape Breton. Much information on the Gaelic language and arts is housed in the newly constructed Hall of the Clans Museum at the college.

Also in the final week is the Annual Scottish Concert at St. Joseph du Moine in Northern Inverness County, featuring performers in both Scottish and Acadian music.

In all, there will be 28 major Scottish events and 99 other community activities. Admission to events is, in many cases, free. For information, write The Gathering, P.O. Box 130, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2R5.

Manitoba freezes hydro rates

The Manitoba government will freeze power rates for a five-year period for all Manitoba consumers — other than bulk purchasers and those on other, separate contracts.

The province's finance minister, Don Craik, hopes the establishment of a fixed domestic hydro rate for a five-year period will mean that Manitoba will have about the lowest electric power rate in North America — a position the province once enjoyed but has lost over the past few years. In the past five years, Manitoba's hydro rates have increased in excess of 150 per cent.

Cost to the province for the support program will be \$31.3 million for this year.

The Manitoba government is examining the possibility of firm power export contracts with the United States for a limited period of time until the province requires the power for its own purposes.

A negotiating committee, consisting of representatives from Manitoba Hydro and the provincial government, as well as external professional people, and headed by legal counsel, has been established to carry out negotiations with government and utility officials from the United States.