

Giovanni, designed by Robert Prévost, which will alternate with the plays at the Avon. The three productions open the second week in July.

CONCERTS AND BALLET

Eight Sunday and six Saturday-morning concerts will be presented under the direction of Oscar Shumsky, Music Director of the Festival. The concert season runs from July 10 to August 28.

The world première of a new full-length ballet, *Rose Latulippe*, by Brian MacDonald, will be presented at the Avon Theatre in mid-August by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. It is the first full-length ballet created in Canada with a Canadian theme and is based on an old French-Canadian legend.

As previously announced, the 1966 season will be extended by two weeks. The opening date is June 6 and the Festival will run for 18 weeks to October 8. The last four weeks include six student matinees a week with two evening performances on Wednesday and Saturday nights, available to the general public.

FEDERAL HELP FOR FISHERMEN

Mr. H.J. Robichaud, the Minister of Fisheries, recently announced details of a federal programme to provide immediate assistance to fishermen who had suffered serious catch failure during the past season.

The Minister's action implements the announcement last September 27 by Prime Minister Pearson that the Government had "taken steps to work out plans to assist the fishermen in communities where, by the end of the season, the inshore fishery has been a failure".

The special assistance will be based on records of fishing income supplied by the Unemployment Insurance Commission; but actual payment will be made by the Department of Fisheries from money voted by Parliament for this purpose. To be eligible for assistance, a fisherman must have at least five weeks with fishing stamps in his book that were earned in 1965. This shows that he depends on fishing for a substantial part of his income.

CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

A fisherman with no dependents, who has five weeks with fishing stamps earned in 1965, but does not have an unemployment-insurance entitlement of more than \$150 in the 1965-66 benefit period, will be eligible - as will a fisherman with dependents who has five weeks fishing stamps earned in 1965 but does not have an unemployment-insurance entitlement for more than \$200 in the same period.

The amount of special assistance paid by the Department of Fisheries will depend on the fisherman's initial entitlement to seasonal benefit in the coming winter. If he has dependents, he will receive the difference between \$200 and his earned unemployment-insurance entitlement. If he has no dependents, he will receive the difference between \$150 and his entitlement.

WINTER SUPPLEMENT

The purpose of this programme is to supplement the winter income of those fishermen who suffered catch failures in 1965. The supplement of \$200 or \$150 will be made up of the initial unemployment-insurance entitlement plus the special assistance that will be available from the Department of Fisheries.

IMPROVEMENTS ON WELLAND CANAL

In August 1963, the Federal Government, recognizing the rate at which traffic through the Welland Canal had been growing, approved the "twinning" of the single locks and the modernization of existing structures.

Since then, major capital works have been undertaken and operational changes implemented. In the light of more recent traffic forecasts, however, even greater improvements will be required in the future.

WELLAND BYPASS

The most significant change under consideration, besides twinning, would be a new channel bypassing the city of Welland. While no decision has yet been made to undertake this project, or regarding its timing, it has been considered prudent by the Government to acquire an additional 3,000 acres of land in the Welland Canal area now. This extra tract will enable the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority to construct a new 8.5-mile bypass round Welland. Located several miles east of the city, the new alignment will link Port Robinson to Port Colborne.

SMALLER FOREST-FIRE DAMAGE

According to estimates released by the Department of Forestry, the forest-fire season in Canada closed on October 31 with the second lowest acreage loss in 37 years.

The seven-month toll of 544,000 acres damaged by forest fires was in striking contrast to the average annual loss over the previous ten years of more than 2.5 million acres. Losses for the 1964 season were more than 2,990,000 acres. The lowest forest-fire acreage since 1928 was 470,000 in 1963.

MORE FIRES

The actual number of fires was a shade higher than average; there were 7,087 during 1965, compared to the 1955-1964 annual average of 6,735. During 1964, there were 6,944 forest fires between April 1 and October 31.

The 1965 totals include 190 fires affecting 30,000 acres in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, as against 187 affecting over 470,964 acres in 1964. The NWT average for the preceding decade was 148 fires in 409,544 acres.

October 1965 accounted for 133 fires that damaged 20,000 acres of forest, compared to 198 fires over 7,468 acres in October 1964. There were no fires in the Northwest Territories during October of either year.