

Vets health benefits increase

The federal government expects to spend an additional \$21 million over the next four years to meet the health care needs of Canada's war veterans, Gilles Lamontagne, Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs, has announced.

In making the announcement the minister noted that over half of Canada's 800,000 veterans will be over the age of 65 by 1985 and, in increasing numbers, will be subject to the problems of old age.

The aging veteran program, which will begin next April, will provide financial aid so that eligible veterans can continue to live independently and comfortably in their own homes. When this is no longer possible, the department may assist veterans to meet costs of care in a nursing home in their home communities, so that they may be near their families and friends.

Initially these expanded benefits will be available to some 100,000 veterans who receive war disability pensions, and whose health care needs stem from these disabilities.

Mr. Lamontagne said that the services for which financial assistance will be made available fall into the two broad groups of home care and community care. Care in the home includes professional health care and assistance such as preparation of meals, housecleaning, transportation to day centres, and home modifications to assist the handicapped. When care in community facilities is required, the department will assist in arranging for this level of care through existing nursing homes or other appropriate facilities.

Duty-free shops planned

The Canadian government will establish 30 to 35 duty-free shops at land-border crossings during 1981, National Revenue Minister William Rompkey has announced.

Visitors leaving Canada and Canadians leaving on vacations are expected to spend about \$20 each at the shops for a total of about \$100 million, said the minister.

The shops will sell liquor, wine, tobacco and crafts. Other items might include imported perfumes, cameras, radios, tape recordings, china, woollens and luggage. Several shops are expected to be opened in the spring.

Canadians win golf title

Canadians Dan Halldorson of Shilo, Manitoba and Jim Nelford of Burnaby, British Columbia won the twenty-eighth World Cup golf tournament for Canada ahead of Scotland, Taiwan and Colombia. The tournament was held recently in Bogota, Colombia.

The victory was the first by a Canadian entry since 1968 when Al Balding and George Knudson, both of Toronto, finished ahead of the field. Balding won the individual crown that year.

The Canadians finished with a four-day score of 572 to win the two-man team competition by three strokes over the Scottish twosome of Sandy Lyle and Steve Martin.

Meat import legislation

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan recently introduced legislation in the House of Commons to regulate the imports of fresh, chilled and frozen beef and veal.

The proposed legislation would provide authority to set quotas on beef imports based on the average level of imports in the 1971-1975 period. The quotas would be adjusted annually to take into account changes in the amount of beef consumed in Canada and in the level of cows and heifers slaughtered.

Factors such as the supply and price of other meats, and restrictions affecting cattle or beef trade with other countries, would also be considered.

"Ad hoc policies of restricting beef imports in the past have led to uncertainties both for the Canadian meat industry and for our trading partners," Mr. Whelan said. He said import controls would serve the interests of both producers and consumers by helping to stabilize supplies and prices.

An advisory committee with representatives from the beef industry and consumer groups would be set up to advise the Minister of Agriculture on matters relating to beef import controls.

The legislation is broadly parallel with the revised United States Meat Import Law. Canada is an integral part of the North American market for beef and the similarity between these two import control systems will help prevent disruptions in Canada's beef and cattle trade with the United States, said Mr. Whelan.

Here you can fly like a bird

A converted silo where patrons wear padded flying suits to vault themselves through the air over the churning of an old DC-3 propeller has would-be flyers lining up to take their turn imitating birds.

The "Aerodium" in St. Simon, 72 kilometres east of Montreal, is the patented invention of Jean St. Germain.

The silo is a seven-metre high chamber with a taut reinforced nylon net forming a floor five metres above the DC-3 propeller which is powered by a diesel engine.

New recruits at the Aerodium, which has been examined regularly by government inspectors, first don sky-diving suits, elbow and knee pads, helmets goggles and running shoes.

Réal Samson, a 25-year-old skydiver pilot, or one of the inventor's sons then explains the principles of "flying".

"Stand along the walls, extend your legs and arms, curve your body like a spoon and jump face-down into the centre," says Samson.

He jumps — a distance no further than falling to the floor from a standing position — and seconds later is in the air, soaring up and down and somersaulting at will. Beginners find it more difficult — hands or legs held improperly can send them bouncing into the net.

The operators say risk is minimal because the monitors break novices' falls. Only one person is allowed to fly at a time and the experience costs \$1 a minute on weekends (50 cents a minute during weekdays) on top of a \$5 fee for renting protective gear.

Cancer study for women

The National Cancer Institute of Canada is conducting a \$9-million study to determine whether mammography, breast X-rays, will reduce the death rate from breast cancer by detecting tumours early.

The study has detected breast cancer in ten of 4,000 women examined in Toronto in the first 11 months of last year. The study is headed by Dr. A.B. Miller, head of the institute's epidemiology unit.

The institute plans to enrol 90,000 women across Canada in the study program in the next five years. Dr. Miller said giving five mammograms over five years to 45,000 women could save 65 to 70 lives.