
Canada holds skating championships

Eighty of the world's top young figure skaters met in London, Ontario, December 9-14, for the World Junior Figure Skating Championships. It was the first time this competition was held outside Europe.

Of the six Canadian entries in the championships, the two pairs finished in the medals standings. Lorri Baier of Mitchell, Ontario and Lloyd Eisler of Seaforth, Ontario placed second in the pairs competition behind Larisa Selezneva and Oleg Makarov of the Soviet Union.

Karyn and Rod Garossino of Calgary took the bronze in ice dancing behind silver medallists Natalia Aneko and Vadim Karkatchev of the Soviet Union. Elena Batanova and Alexei Karkatchev of the Soviet Union successfully defended their ice dancing title.

To be eligible for the World Junior Figure Skating Championships, single skaters must have been under 16 years of age and couples under 18 as of July 1, 1980. The event was sanctioned by the International Skating Union and all member countries were permitted to enter competitors. There were 20 countries participating in this year's event.

University convocation in Kenya

Twenty-four students recently received degrees from the University of New Brunswick at a ceremony in Nairobi, Kenya.

It was the second time the university had held a graduation ceremony in Nairobi for Kenyans educated at the University of New Brunswick. The graduates received their Bachelor of Education degrees enabling them to take up posts on the faculty of the Kenya Technical Teachers' College (KTTC).

The University of New Brunswick has been involved in a project with the KTTC since 1975 when it signed an agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to provide scholarship education and technical assistance for the establishment of the college.

CIDA funding was projected at \$21 million, of which \$16 million is being administered by the University of New Brunswick. It is the largest technical education project funded by CIDA.

The Kenyan government provided land

and construction funds for the KTTC campus, and pays the operating costs of the college. It also pays the salaries of the professional Kenyan teachers and tradesmen recruited to study at the University of New Brunswick for about three years, to upgrade their credentials to the teacher's college level.

The program's current schedule calls for the college's faculty and administration to be composed completely of Kenyans by 1983. At present, the 500 students enrolled at KTTC are served by a faculty made up of Kenyans and between 20 and 30 Canadians. Eighty Kenyans have enrolled at the University of New Brunswick to date.

(From UNB Perspectives, December 1.)

First solar suburb

Canada's first solar-heated suburb will be built outside Ottawa.

Plans announced recently show that 85 per cent of a proposed 420-unit housing development will incorporate some form of solar heating with gas or electricity as a backup.

The development is the idea of developer Jack Johannsen, who feels the time is right for mass-produced homes with energy-saving technology.

Six models priced from \$150,000 to \$200,000 are expected to be completed by this spring. Computer programs have been used to determine the best designs for the energy-efficient housing. The developers estimate it will cost about \$200 a year to heat the single-family homes as opposed to the average homeowner's bill of \$600.

Workplace health survey begins

The Canadian Labour Congress has begun a detailed national survey of about 2,500 white-collar workers in an attempt to find links between health problems and office working conditions.

The survey covers members of seven unions in all regions of the country at 14 different places of work — such as airline reservation clerks, rail freight clerks, telephone operators, government filing clerks and television technicians.

The congress, the country's largest labour organization representing about 2.3 million workers, said the size and depth of the study is unprecedented in

North America.

The survey, which will cost the congress \$40,000, contains about 100 questions. Results from the survey should be available in the spring.

Cause-and-effect relationship

The study is designed to determine how widespread are complaints of bad health among white-collar workers and whether there is a cause-and-effect relationship between such complaints and working conditions.

In the case of video display terminals, the survey is designed to compare workers who use them constantly with workers who use them only partially and not at all. The terminals are computerized information machines that look like combined television sets and typewriters.

The survey was prompted by concern among unions about the effects on health of the terminals and other equipment, plus such working conditions as poor ventilation and lighting.

CIDA assists Bangladesh railways

A team of Canadian advisers will help Bangladesh Railways improve its operating efficiency over the next five years, Bill McWhinney, acting president of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has announced.

Canadian Pacific Consulting Services Limited of Montreal will provide technical assistance through a \$5.1-million CIDA-funded project aimed at helping Bangladesh Railways strengthen its locomotive maintenance capacity and modernize its material management system. The goal is to raise the service availability of diesel electric locomotives to about 85 per cent, comparable to prevailing standards in Canada, from the previous level of 65 per cent, and to extend the improved stores and inventory system already established with Canadian assistance at the railway's Dacca workshop to other parts of the country.

The Canadian technical assistance team will include a director and several short-term and long-term advisers, to a total of some 33 man-years of services. In close co-operation with counterparts in Bangladesh Railways they will develop a program of preventive maintenance for diesel electric locomotives, help railways staff upgrade their skills, and improve the spare parts system.