

Ontario tourism gains

The number of tourists travelling in Ontario rose 5 per cent in the first five months of 1979, reports Ontario Minister of Industry and Tourism Larry Grossman.

Visits from the United States were up by 2 per cent from those of last year, compared with a 1 per cent decline in 1978, said the Minister. Overseas visits to Canada rose 25 per cent, compared with a 16 per cent increase in 1978.

Mr. Grossman said gas shortages in the United States and the discount in the Canadian dollar had helped increase U.S. travel to Canada.

The strength of foreign currencies, such as the Japanese yen and the West German mark, relative to the Canadian dollar, has made Canada more attractive to overseas visitors.

Preliminary results for June and July indicate that the trends of the first five months are continuing. The improvement in the number of U.S. visitors reflects real tourist business and not just people crossing the border for gas, says Mr. Grossman.

The number of Ontario residents travelling to the United States was down by 3.7 per cent during the first five months.

More Canadians are travelling in Ontario instead of to the United States because of gas shortages and the devalued dollar, said the Minister.



A young visitor to the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto touches the static electricity dome and her hair stands on end. Visits there increased by 15 per cent in the first five months of 1979.

Stamp honours Diefenbaker

Former Prime Minister, the late John G. Diefenbaker, will be honoured with a postage stamp to be issued next June.

"His personal courage and determination were an inspiration to all Canadians, particularly the young people in whom he took such an interest," said Postmaster General John Fraser. "Mr. Diefenbaker's many achievements and pursuits, particularly in the fields of human rights and northern development, have been recognized both in Canada and around the world. The stamp is a small token to honour a man of such stature, but it is one which will be available to all Canadians. I believe it is a fitting memorial," concluded Mr. Fraser.

The stamp will be issued as Canadians prepare to celebrate the one-hundred-and-thirteenth anniversary of Confederation and the twenty-third anniversary of the date on which Mr. Diefenbaker became a member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada. He became Prime Minister one day later.

High school teaches native culture

Calgary has opened its first native high school enabling native teenagers to learn their own customs and at the same time meet the academic requirements of the provincial school system.

Ninety pupils are enrolled at Plains Indians Cultural Survival School, and vice-principal Howard Green says his story is typical. More than 80 per cent of the pupils were school drop-outs, some of them for years.

In Canada, 94 per cent of natives who start junior high school do not graduate and 83 per cent drop out by Grade 9. At Plains, less than a third dropped out last year and for many the problems were financial, Mr. Green said.

The school provides the basic academic program for junior and senior high, but it is the cultural side that is the key to its success. Students study traditional native crafts such as teepee-making, tanning and beadwork, as well as language studies in Cree, Blackfoot and Sarcee.

While the school's purpose is to preserve Indian culture, the school's survival is by no means ensured. The academic program is financed by the Calgary Board of Education but the cultural component

relies on private and corporate donations.

The school is housed in the basement of a public school but Mr. Green hopes for larger facilities and a more central building promised by the school board.

The atmosphere at the school is relaxed. There are no bells, pupils can smoke and drink coffee in class, and teachers are called by their first names. Cultural teachers are recruited from the city and neighbouring reserves and many are parents of students.

Grace Daniels, for example, learned teepee-making from her mother and grandmother: "I've taught my family, but who will teach these kids? If I hadn't learned these things I might have been roaming the streets, too."

Grade 12 student Rod Scout says it's the first time he's felt comfortable in any school and predicts that he will be better prepared for life outside.

Utility tool cuts repair bills

Hydro-electric utilities throughout the world could save millions of dollars by using a device developed by the Canadian Electrical Association.

Expected to be available commercially by Christmas, the generator diagnostic tool detects deterioration of insulation in a hydro plant generator in time to save the equipment, says the association's public relations director, Robin Palin.

When a generator's rigid foam-core insulation cracks, bills for replacement and repair can mount as high as \$10 million and the generator can be out of service for three months.

Until now it was impossible to tell whether the insulation was likely to break, making preventative maintenance useless, Mr. Palin explained. The device is attached permanently to each generator at a hydro-electric installation.

Mr. Palin said that while tenders for a licence to manufacture the box had not yet been called, manufacturing costs were estimated at \$3,000 and the selling price, about \$10,000.

Hydro-Quebec already has the research model installed at four Outardes power stations. Manitoba Hydro uses it at Long Spruce and Saskatchewan also has some for its installations, he said.

The association includes all 33 utilities in the country, including Alcan Aluminium Ltd., which generates 16 per cent of the power available to Quebec.