

Ships' captains plan for historic anniversary

The captains of 20 of the world's great sailing ships met in Quebec City in October to make plans for the four-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of Jacques Cartier's initial exploration of the St. Lawrence river.

The meeting was the first conference held by the captains whose ships serve as training schools and represent such countries as Argentina and the USSR. The last time the ships assembled was in New York in 1976, to celebrate the United States' bicentennial year. The gathering of sailing vessels in New York was estimated to have attracted 6 million people and it is anticipated that large numbers will visit Quebec when the ships assemble for the 1984 celebrations.

A summer festival is planned in 1984 and the training ships will travel up the St. Lawrence for a six-day visit to Quebec. The festival will commemorate Jacques Cartier's voyage in 1534 from the French port of St. Malo to the St. Lawrence where he claimed North American territory — the extent of which was unknown

— for his king, Francis I.

The federal, Quebec and municipal governments are co-operating in the plans for 1984 and they are sharing the \$150 000 cost of the October captain's conference.

In the anniversary year, plans are that the sailing vessels will assemble at St. Malo and then sail across the Atlantic, making calls at Halifax and Gaspé on their way to Quebec. To make it easier for them to navigate the St. Lawrence, they will travel up-river in convoy. The group of graceful, tall-masted ships will provide the outstanding spectacle of the anniversary but a series of additional events are planned by the Quebec 1534-1984 Corporation that already is at work from headquarters in Quebec City.

A challenge race for yachts of uniform design representing the ten Canadian provinces is planned as well as a trans-Atlantic sailing race for Formula 1 yachts from Quebec to St. Malo.

Quebec City will be the centre of the 1984 celebrations because it became the capital of New France as a result of

Jacques Cartier's sixteenth-century voyages. Under the French government and the succeeding British regimes, Quebec City developed into a major port where in a single season 1 439 vessels dropped anchor.

The old French port of St. Malo, in Brittany, now is a favourite place for Canadians visiting France because of its charm and its association with Canada's early colonial days. The MacDonald-Stewart Foundation in Montreal, which devotes itself especially to the restoration and preservation of historic places in Quebec, has located the stone manor house in St. Malo where Jacques Cartier lived, and it now attends to its maintenance as a historic site.

(Article by William Stewart in Canadian Scene, September 10, 1982.)

Clothing import restrictions

Short-term initiatives intended to restrict selected clothing imports to Canada for 1983 have been announced by the federal government to help preserve jobs and enable the domestic industry to continue the work of industrial adaptation begun in 1981.

The Canadian Industrial Renewal Board, with funding of \$250 million over the next five years, was established in 1981 to assist the clothing and textile industry's efforts to rationalize and modernize and to increase productivity and restrain prices. Temporary assistance has become necessary for the industry, however, owing to the impact of increased imports during 1982 and current difficult economic circumstances. Employment in the industry has become seriously affected with a loss of some 27 000 jobs, a reduction of 15 per cent in the past year.

In the new measures, the government has invoked the consultative clauses in Canada's bilateral restraint arrangements with its four principal suppliers: Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and the Taiwan Textile Federation. In discussions with these countries, the Canadian government will negotiate lower levels of clothing imports for selected product areas where the import competition facing the Canadian industry is particularly serious.

At the same time, the government is conscious of the needs of Canadian consumers and is satisfied that they will continue to be able to obtain a wide range of reasonably priced, quality garments.

New stamp issue features heritage artifacts

Canada Post has issued a new set of six low-value definitives featuring Canadian artifacts. In addition to illustrating aspects of life in bygone days, the artifacts shown on the stamps also pay tribute to those who preserve and make known the culture of Canada's past. The one-cent stamp features a decoy; the two-cent stamp, a fishing spear; the three-cent stamp, a stable lantern; the five-cent stamp, a wooden bucket; the ten-cent stamp, a weathercock; and the 20-cent stamp, a pair of skates.

