

Changing lake levels

(Continued from P. 5)

The policies that are required to meet the industrial, municipal and personal requirements of the 35 million people who live around the lakes must take into account the reality of fluctuating lake levels. The first step is to understand the causes and effects of changing lake levels. In addition, we require improved and enlarged data-gathering facilities in order to develop better forecasting procedures. Because cyclical high water is a constant factor, we must identify and delineate those lands susceptible to erosion and flooding, called hazard lands. But even with better methods of prediction, the socio-economic policies we need with respect to these lands are not easy to develop. Should, for instance, public funds be used to buy private property on which a house is about to topple over a cliff, or be irreparably damaged by flooding? In the area of policy development, the answers are still unclear.

People who live by the sea accept and adapt to the ocean's tides. A similar acceptance of fluctuating lake levels must be developed by those who live by the lakes, and by those agencies of government with jurisdiction over lands that border on lakes. Today, we live most of our lives within the stable confines of the city, where even severe storms do little to alter our behavioural patterns. In such environments we become accustomed to consistency, and so it seems that when we move out of the cities we demand the same consistency from the natural environment. But nature does not work that way. The fluctuations in lake levels are natural phenomena governed by natural laws. It is only by understanding them and working with them that we can live with the lakes.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.

IDRC fellowships

Fellowships for young professionals from developing countries to study in Canada have been established by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to honour former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, who was the first chairman of IDRC's board of governors.

The candidates, aged from 25 to 35, must have been working in their public service for the past three years and must agree to return to their country once

their studies are completed. The fellows will attend a Canadian institution, public or private, where the work is related to their professional interest.

The fellowships will concentrate each year on a single field — agriculture for 1977 — and five fellowships will be awarded the first year. Canadian missions abroad will choose the candidates, with interviews taking place in the regional offices of IDRC. The final decision will be made at IDRC headquarters in Ottawa. The first fellows will arrive in Canada this month.

News briefs

Canadian-born Guy Lombardo, whose soothing theme song *Auld Lang Syne* has marked the passing of each year for millions of North Americans, died in Houston, U.S.A. on November 5 at the age of 75. The band leader, who began his career 63 years ago in London, Ontario, established himself in the United States in the mid-1920s, and first broadcast his theme song over radio on December 31, 1929. Lombardo's band, the Royal Canadians, will play New Year's Eve at New York's Waldorf Astoria, as they have for 13 years, under the direction this year of Guy's brother, Victor.

Farm debt outstanding in Canada rose to \$8.5 billion in 1976 from \$4.3 billion in 1970. This increase, coupled with a decrease in farm numbers over the same period, indicates a considerable rise in the average farm debt-load in recent years.

Via Rail Canada, which will take over all passenger train operations in Canada next April 1, is preparing to convert about 100 Dayliner and Railiner cars to higher-powered and modernized units for use in inter-city rail passenger services.

India will borrow \$32 million from the Canadian International Development Agency to finance the purchase of Canadian fertilizer.

Robert Burns, House leader for the Parti Québécois, recently proposed the spring of 1979 as the date for the referendum on Quebec independence.

Vacancies for full-time jobs averaged 45,400 in the third quarter of 1977, up 5.1 per cent from 43,200 in the second quarter, but down 17 per cent from 54,700 in the third quarter of 1976, Statistics Canada says.

Coca-Cola Ltd. has introduced another diet soft drink, bringing to four the number the company will make available now that the ban on saccharin has become effective.

The Federal Government is interested in a proposal by Dome Petroleum Ltd. of Calgary to build and operate a powerful polar ice-breaker, to be used initially to extend the short drilling season in the offshore waters of the Beaufort Sea. Rather than share directly the capital costs of the \$100-million-plus vessel, the Government would prefer to work out a leasing arrangement for part-time use of the privately-owned icebreaker.

The value of manufacturers' shipments during the first half of this year totalled \$53,971.2 million, an increase of 9.7 per cent from \$49,218.2 million during the corresponding period last year. Increases were recorded in all provinces ranging from a high of 16.9 per cent in British Columbia to 3.6 per cent in Newfoundland. The June 1977 total, \$9,875.6 million, was the highest value ever recorded.

Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd. will raise the price of its 1978 model cars, including options, an average of \$323, or 4.6 per cent.

Atlantic Container Lines (Canada) Ltd., one of the larger container shipping lines of the North Atlantic, is going into the air cargo business.

The federal Department of Transport has begun a \$1-million program to improve port facilities at Halifax, Saint John and three ports in Prince Edward Island for the export of potatoes during the winter.

The Anti-Inflation Board said its food price index rose 12.1 percent above levels of a year earlier.