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## Triumph at downhill championships

Three Canadian women placed in the five top positions at the recent World Alpine downhill championships held in Schladming, Austria.

Gerry Sorensen of Kimberley, British Columbia won the gold medal while Laurie Graham from Inglewood, Ontario finished third and Dianne Lehodey of Calgary, Alberta placed fifth.

"This is the best any Canadian women's team has ever done in one of these top races," said Currie Chapman, the head coach of the Canadian women's downhill team.

To win the world alpine championships — held every second year between Olympics — is considered second in importance only to the Olympics.

Sorensen averaged nearly 94 kilometres an hour on the 2,656-metre course that has a vertical drop of 674 metres.

Sorensen's win puts her in the favourite position to win the World Cup women's downhill competition for the year.

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## Chefs win culinary honours

A team of eight Canadian chefs won eight gold medals and the prestigious World Cup in a sweeping victory over more than 100 competitors at the Zeeland International Culinary Competition in Middleburg in the Netherlands recently.

Competing against world-renowned participants from some 20 countries, Canada was awarded its second World Cup in as many competitions for its entry in the *table d'honneur* category. The *grand buffet* featured more than 20 "show platters" under the theme of "Canadian Thanksgiving" and included everything from lobster to meat and poultry.

The Canadian team was headed by master chef George Chauvet, who has received numerous culinary honours in his 25-year career.

The Canadian team spent nearly a week preparing the award-winning cuisine, which was judged on presentation, quality, workmanship and economy of fare.

A Canada night banquet was staged following the competition, during which more than 350 local dignitaries sampled some of Canada's finest cuisine.

Canada won its first Culinary World Cup award and seven gold medals in May 1980 in Karlsruhe, Germany.

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## Satellite newspaper plant opens

The *Globe and Mail* has added an Atlantic link to its cross-Canada network of satellite plants with the first printing of the national edition of the newspaper in Moncton, New Brunswick.

The Moncton plant is the fourth in the electronic network, joining newspaper plants in Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver.

This addition comes 15 months after the first satellite printing of *The Globe* in Montreal in October 1980. That operation was moved to Ottawa after a fire in the Montreal plant.

The simultaneous printing of the paper on the main presses in Toronto and in the four sister plants became possible with the use of an electronic system in which pages made up in Toronto are scanned by a laser reader that breaks down each page image into hundreds of millions of "bits". These are transformed into an electrical pulse which is beamed as a microwave radio signal to Telesat Canada's *Anik A-3* satellite, floating in space above the Equator over the Pacific Ocean. *Anik* relays the message to receiving stations at the printing plants at the rate of a page a minute.

Part of the first Moncton press run of about 14,000 papers will be flown to St. John's, Newfoundland; Yarmouth, Nova Scotia; and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. A fleet of more than 25 trucks will carry papers to Halifax, Saint John, Fredericton and other centres in the Atlantic provinces.

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## Linguist uncovers buried treasures in the language

Terry Pratt turns over the rocks and peeks into the crevices of the language, exploring for dialectic treasures, reports the *Canadian Press*.

His booty is a rich and often rough vocabulary, unpolished gems in a lexicon largely sapped of colour and regional texture by the advent of mass communications and word-bending technology.

In his field of study, an attractive woman may be "trappy" if smartly dressed, a "flamer" if wild or "kippy" if young.

Insults take on unorthodox hues when a sneak is called a "snollygoster", a fool a "gommie", and the worst kind of rat a "scut".

Mr. Pratt, a University of Prince Edward Island linguist, is collecting morsels of

non-standard English that he intends to turn into a dictionary of words and phrases used or remembered on the island.

He stresses that most of the 300 words he now has under study are not unique to Prince Edward Island or even to the Maritimes.

But through surveys and interviews, he finds Prince Edward Island the right place for his search.

## Words forgotten

Most of the words reached North America with the first waves of settlers from the British Isles.

But Britain, along with other innovative urban and social centres, has largely forgotten these words. They have been left stranded — to be preserved, tinted by regional flavour or slowly lost — in places away from the mainstream of cultural change.

"We're looking at eighteenth century or early nineteenth century vestiges here which have remained because of the isolation of the province and of the region," Mr. Pratt said.

"Language tends always to be more conservative in the outbacks, in the farther reaches."

Even in this sheltered island, however, cultural changes are bearing down in unprecedented fashion, he said.

The young or city-bred Maritimer is unlikely now to don "sliggins" instead of slippers, sit down to a good "scoff" instead of feast, or tell a hypochondriac he is just in a "flummery" fit.

Mr. Pratt began his list in 1979 by talking to people well connected with the island's culture.

Later, people were asked by his assistants whether they had heard the words, whether they used them and how they defined them, and also were solicited for new contributions.

The list grew quickly. Mr. Pratt said people unaccustomed to thinking about the way they talk threw themselves to the task.

## Seniors remember

He knew from the outset where most of the wealth lay. The initial questionnaires went out to senior citizens and fully half of those interviewed in the survey of dialect were 60 or older.

He also had 200 people interviewed for their use of more common words, noting for instance, whether they used soda pop or pop, or whether dinner was interchangeable with lunch and supper.