

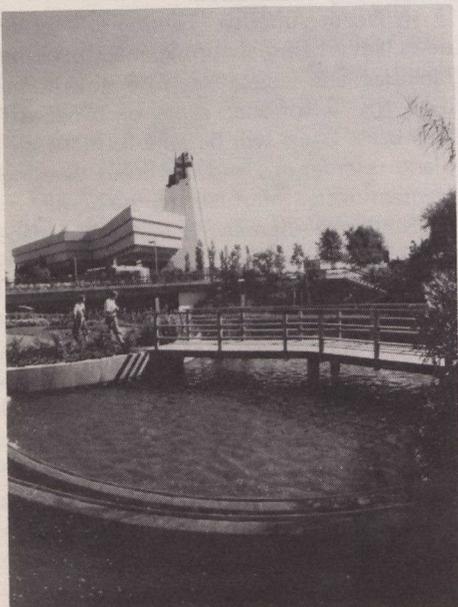
Bird sanctuary opens in Montreal

Ile Notre-Dame, which served as the site for the *Floralies internationales* held in Montreal in 1980, became a bird sanctuary this summer.

Daniel Coulombe, who is head of *Le centre de conservation de la faune ailée de Montréal*, the new agency in charge of the project, said that the centre is one of the first public sites for conservation in an urban setting in Canada, and perhaps the only one of its kind.

The public is able to take part in guided ornithological tours and bird watchers can use specially-equipped observation areas.

The British pavilion from Expo '67 has become one of these areas. Its cornices serve as a nesting place for some 200 pairs of cliff swallows.



View of Ile Notre-Dame.

The island also has a reception area where exhibitions devoted to photography, painting and wildlife art in general will be presented. Visitors can see a collection of stuffed birds representing approximately 100 species, including the passenger pigeon -- a bird once widespread in Quebec and which became extinct around the turn of the century due to overhunting.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who are responsible for enforcing the Migratory Birds Convention Act, will be involved in the centre in collaboration with *Le centre de conservation de la faune du Québec* and several scientific agencies. Members of the Young Naturalists are providing information on the flora.

International wheat agreement

Canada has acceded to two-year extensions of the Wheat Trade Convention, 1971 and the Food Aid Convention, 1980, both comprising the International Wheat Agreement, 1971.

The action was taken so that Canada would continue to be a member of the International Wheat Agreement. Canada's commitment to the Food Aid Convention will be maintained at its previous level of 600,000 metric tons of cereal food aid annually.

"Canada will continue to play its part in assisting developing countries through ongoing provision of food aid and through improvements in the existing system of world food security," Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan said in making the announcement. Canada is joining with other donors to the 1980 Food Aid Convention in announcing its intention to maintain food aid flows at their current levels for another two years.

Research aids cheese industry

Canadian cheesemakers can increase their efficiency and expand cheese production in Canada by using ultrafiltered milk powder instead of fresh milk, according to research funded by the federal government and carried out at Laval University in Quebec City.

Ultrafiltration involves passing milk through a very fine membrane. In this way large amounts of water are removed leaving behind only the useful milk solids. The use of ultrafiltered milk reduces the volume of milk to be stored and processed when manufacturing cheese.

Produces twice as much

In a cheddar cheesemaking study, the volume of milk used was cut in half by ultrafiltration. This made it possible to produce twice as much cheese in the same vat. The process also required only half the normal amount of rennet, a valuable substance used to form the cheese curd.

Using milk powder produced from ultrafiltered fluid milk also makes it possible to keep summer production surpluses for use during winter periods when milk deliveries are lower but demand for cheese has increased.

Cheesemakers can also save on storage and transportation costs and additional savings are possible on evaporation and

drying costs when manufacturing ultrafiltered milk powder.

The Laval University research was carried out on the use of ultrafiltered milk powder to manufacture three types of cheese: camembert (soft medium-ripened cheese), cheddar (firm long-ripened cheese), and cottage cheese (un-ripened).

The best results were obtained with cottage cheese. There was little difference in taste between cottage cheese produced using traditional methods and that made from ultrafiltered milk powder. A good-quality mild cheddar cheese was also produced but the attempt to make camembert was unsuccessful.

Propane vehicles promoted

The federal government has begun a new program that is aimed at promoting the use of propane in farm and commercial vehicles.

The program will provide a \$400 taxable grant for each farm or commercial vehicle either purchased new with a propane fuel system or converted to propane from gasoline. Conversion of diesel-powered vehicles to mixed diesel-propane fuel system will also be eligible for this grant.

Vehicles eligible for the grant include farm vehicles and road vehicles owned by Canadian businesses. Road vehicles owned by Crown corporations, certain charitable non-profit organizations, municipalities and regional governments and boards, commissions and authorities are also eligible under the program.

There are now an estimated 9,000 propane-fuelled road vehicles in Canada. The federal government's goal is to use surplus propane to fuel at least 100,000 vehicles by 1985, displacing the equivalent of 13,000 barrels a day of gasoline.

The chief advantage of propane is its lower cost compared to gasoline or diesel fuel. The price differential varies according to local markets. Generally, it is greater in the west and in Ontario, and it is greater in centres served by large volume distributors.

In a market where, for example, gasoline costs 33.5 cents a litre and propane 20 cents a litre, a vehicle using 10,000 litres of fuel a year would save the commercial vehicle operator \$800 a year in fuel costs. This figure reflects the slightly lower energy content of propane compared to gasoline.