
Skaters win in Japan

Canadian figure skaters Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini won the pairs title at the recent 1980 Japan Broadcasting Corporation Cup international competition in Sapporo, Japan.

Underhill of Oshawa, Ontario and Martini of Woodbridge, Ontario led after the short program and placed first with 1.4 ordinals and 100.8 points. They received 53.1 points for the free-skating portion and 47.7 for the short program.

Americans Maria Didomenico and Burt Lancon finished second with 3.2 ordinals and 95.9 points, 46.3 for the short program and 49.6 for free skating.

Lillian Heming and Murray Carey of Winnipeg placed third in ice dancing with 4.2 ordinals and 97.5 points.

Archives get war hero's papers

The personal papers of Air Vice-Marshal Raymond Collishaw were transferred to the Public Archives of Canada recently, representing a major addition to the military holdings of the Archives.

Originally donated to the Public Archives, the Collishaw Papers were loaned to the Department of National Defence where they proved to be an invaluable source of information in the writing of the Royal Canadian Air Forces' official history.

The collection consists of research material on First World War British and German aviation collected by Collishaw and others, including correspondence, notes, articles, photographs and films. According to Dr. W.A.B. Douglas, director, directorate of history, National Defence Headquarters, "Collishaw's correspondence with 'War Birds' resulted in the preservation of a good many details about aviation in the First World War that otherwise might have been lost".

Born in Nanaimo, British Columbia, on November 22, 1893, Raymond Collishaw joined the Royal Naval Air Service in 1915. Only a year-and-a-half later, he received the French Croix de guerre, his first of numerous awards in the years to follow. During his career, he is credited with having shot down 60 enemy airplanes while in France. In addition, under his command, No. 203 Squadron destroyed 125 aircraft.

He remained in the Royal Air Force

after the First World War and his service included postings in South Russia, the Middle East, England and the Mediterranean. During the Second World War, Collishaw commanded the Desert Air Force and in 1940-41 his leadership and tactics resulted in the almost complete destruction of the Italian air force in the North African theatre. He retired in 1943. After the Second World War he made his home in West Vancouver, where he died in 1976.

Meeting to cover scientific spectrum

Thousands of scientists will meet in Toronto January 3-8 to present their latest findings and discuss the frontiers of science and technology.

The occasion is the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest scientific federation of scientific organizations. The AAAS, which last met in Toronto in 1921, has a membership representing the spectrum of sciences, including medicine, physics, chemistry, biology and engineering.

In the public lecture series, space theorist Freeman Dyson will present his theories of space exploration, Canadian undersea explorer Joe MacInnes will present a slide lecture on his plans to explore a ship that has been trapped under Arctic ice for more than 100 years, and University of Toronto historian W.L. Northrop Frye will give the conference keynote lecture.

The program includes 159 presentations in symposium style, including looks at: the Mount St. Helen's eruptions, prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey; microsurgery and herbal medicine, presented by the Chinese Academy of Medical Science in Peking; and the world arms race.

In biology, topics include natural shark repellants, surgical implants and theories on aging.

In medicine, presentations will cover the latest in treatment and diagnoses of diseases as well as developments in implants and genetic engineering.

Lasers, space exploration and energy technology top the list of subjects covered in lectures in physical sciences and engineering. And there is a special symposium for children with presentations ranging from computers to mysterious objects in space to the dynamics of soap bubbles.

Land business booming

Land developers claim it is the biggest and fastest growing business park in Canada, thanks to Alberta's oil and gas boom of the 1970s. Eighty acres of land there ten years ago sold for \$1,000 an acre. It now is worth \$67,000 an acre.

The development is the success story of four brothers who bought farmland at Nisku, south of Edmonton near the International Airport, and turned it into Nisku Business Park, now worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Holding company

The Sparrow brothers owned an electrical contracting firm in Leduc, 30 kilometres south of Edmonton, which served the oil and gas industry. By the early 1970s Sparrow Industries had become the holding company for five subsidiaries, all involved in the petroleum industry.

The company had outgrown its Leduc facility, a garage, and was searching for property to build larger facilities. So the Sparrow brothers, Don, Bert, Jim and Murray, bought an 80-acre parcel of land at Nisku for \$1,000 an acre, with the option to buy another 160 acres.

While the brothers admit there were misgivings, the move proved a stroke of genius. They had entered the industrial land development business.

Transport handy

The land is only ten minutes south of Edmonton on the Edmonton-Calgary highway. It takes less than five minutes to get to the Edmonton International Airport and the Edmonton-Calgary CP Rail line runs near the property.

At the time of the Sparrows' purchase, Edmonton was suffering from a shortage of serviced industrial property. The brothers built a spur line for \$100,000 and sold it to CP Rail for a dollar. Since then they have built another spur line through the business park under a similar arrangement with the railway.

But a Sparrow Development official says the biggest attraction was the price of the land, about 75 per cent cheaper than land in Edmonton itself. Two years ago the land sold for \$28,500 an acre with \$1,500 a year for services. Now it starts at \$67,000 an acre serviced.

The park continues to grow. Last year alone Sparrow Development sold 200 serviced acres and 300 more unserviced.