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## Satellite communications project

Plans for a major project to develop new satellite data communications technology that could produce important benefits for consumers have been announced by Communications Minister Jeanne Sauvé and executives of CN-CP Telecommunications.

The two will co-operate in the development of an advanced system called SLIM TDMA; then evaluate it, with a network carrying data, voice, and slow-scan video signals to and from Montreal, Ottawa, Kitchener and Toronto, via Telesat Canada's *Anik B* satellite.

The \$2-million project unveiled by the minister, A.J. Kuhr, president of Canadian National Telecommunications and J.G. Sutherland, vice-president, Canadian Pacific Telecommunications, concerns new techniques for more efficient sharing of a satellite's transmission capacity among various numbers of ground stations. It combines Department of Communications expertise gained from recent TDMA experiments using Canada's *Hermes* communications technology satellite with CN-CP's experience in providing a wide range of commercial telecommunications services coast to coast.

Technology refinement and earth-station procurement will start immediately, with first operating trials of the system slated to begin about October 1980 and ending in late spring 1981.

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## Gift from the United States

A United States conservation group has given Canada a vast area — 2,298 hectares — of the Long Point wildlife refuge on Lake Erie that once belonged to a group of millionaire sportsmen.

Long Point, which juts out into Lake Erie at a crucial position on the migratory path of dozens of bird species, is one of southern Ontario's most important wildlife refuges. Now Canada will manage the area as a protected refuge, the largest of its kind in the country.

In 1977 the Canadian members of the Long Point Company, a private group, which had preserved the marshes for more than 100 years, donated 1,000 hectares to Canada.

The newly-donated land had been given to the United States Nature Conservancy by the United States members of the Long Point Company.

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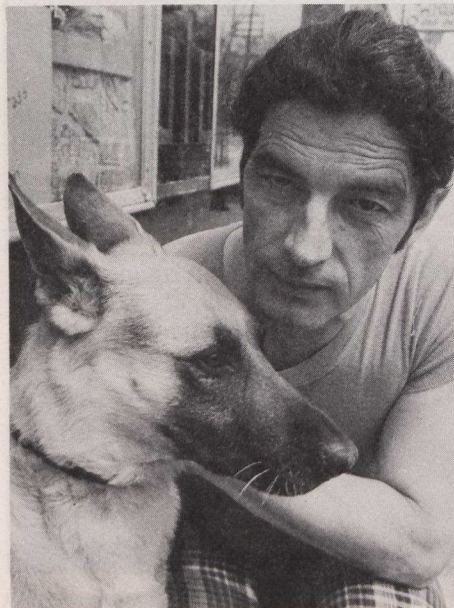
## Canine fire-fighter

An eight-year old dog, which may lose her sight after an attempt to save four budgies from a fire, received the Ontario Humane Society's Hero of the Year award in Belleville, Ontario, on May 11.

Sheba, a German shepherd owned by Robert Stoneedge, has been seeing things only as shadows since February 26, when she rescued her master's other dog, a poodle, but was unsuccessful in saving the four birds in a fire in Toronto. Mr. Stoneedge's cleaning business, known as Sheba's Cleaners, was damaged in the fire, together with a pizzeria, causing \$45,000-worth of damage.

Just before the blaze broke out, Mr. Stoneedge was cleaning the birds' cage when the dog started to whine at his side, warning him of smoke. As he dashed for water, flames broke through the baseboard. "Just then, something fell from the ceiling," said Mr. Stoneedge, "and hit me and the dog. It knocked her down, burning her stomach and back." He got the poodle out of the building, then saw Sheba running back into the shop. When he followed, she had one paw on the table, dragging the budgie cage with her mouth. "Just then, the plastic on the dry cleaning caught fire and the whole place was black with smoke. She let go of the bird cage and I pulled her out."

It was the second time Sheba proved her heroism. Two years ago, when walking with her master on the street, she suddenly darted into a house. Although



Robert Stoneedge and Sheba.

Mr. Stoneedge had suspected nothing, the dog had smelled fire. She pulled a baby in a pram into the safety of a hallway.

"I don't need any award to be proud of her," said the dog's master, "but I'm proud to receive it for her."

The dog's sight was normal before the fire, he said, "but the veterinarian says that she really now only sees shadows". There is some hope that Sheba's sight will be restored.

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## Volleyball in Tel-Aviv

The University of Alberta's Golden Bear and Panda volleyball teams (senior men's and women's) are taking part in the eleventh annual Israel International Sport Week, in Tel Aviv, May 19-26.

Says Hugh Hoyles, coach of the Bears, "educational experience through athletic participation is what university athletics should be all about." He believes that a trip such as the volleyball teams will be making — a combined cultural and athletic exchange — meets that objective very well. Because it does, coach Hoyles and Pierre Baudin, the coach of the Pandas, were eager to have their players take part and responded when they received a circular inviting applications to the Israeli tournament.

The tournament is a popular one, enhanced by the fact that visiting teams are accorded free room, board, and transportation within Israel.

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## Mercy flight remembered

Fifty years ago, on January 3, 1929, aviator Wop May and companion Vic Horner captured the imagination of the world with a mercy flight under difficult winter conditions, reports *Northern Development*, January/February 1979.

In an open cockpit Avro Avian biplane the two men delivered vital diphtheria anti-toxin to the northern Alberta community of Red River from Edmonton.

This summer, May's son and two companions will re-create the flight in a Fleet Finch biplane.

Commemorative airmail envelopes designed by the three pilots are being offered to sponsors of the flight which is designed to raise \$50,000 for airborne missionary work by the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots.