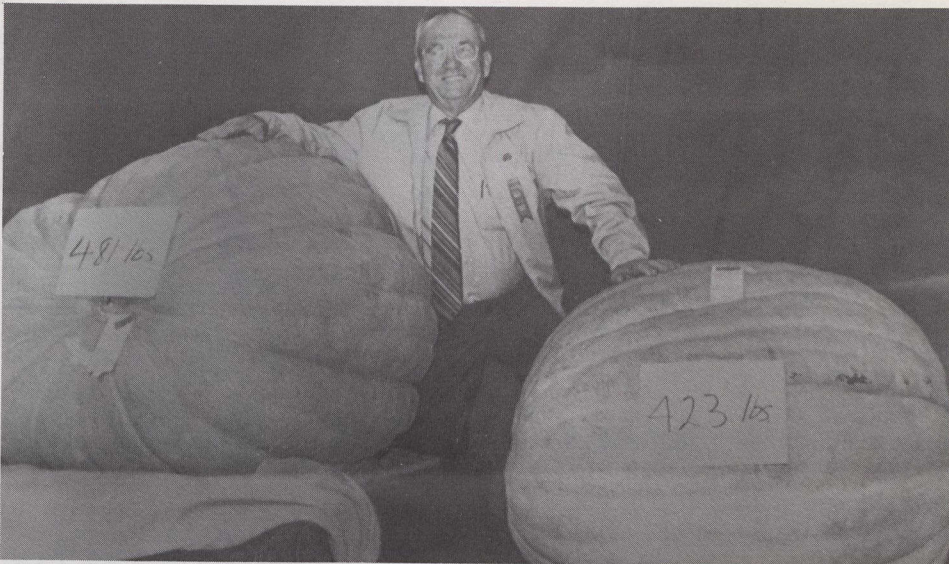


Nova Scotian prize pumpkin squashes all contenders



Owen Woodman, a retired greenhouse foreman from Falmouth, Nova Scotia, became the world's new pumpkin-growing king recently with the 218-kilogram monster displayed at left. He dethroned fellow Nova Scotian Howard Dill and in the process also captured the prize for the largest squash, the 191-kilogram specimen shown at right. As well as beating all the home-grown competition, Mr. Woodman's entries out-weighed the top choices from New York, California and Sussex, England.

News briefs

An international conference on peace and security will be held at the University of Guelph, Ontario with the aim of encouraging the federal government to take on a significant role in reducing tensions between East and West. Scheduled for October 27 to 30, the conference will be "the major event in Canada during United Nations disarmament week", according to Henry Wiseman, conference co-chairman and professor of political studies. Representatives from NATO and the governments of the United States, the Soviet Union, West Germany, Japan, Jamaica and India are expected to attend, together with delegates from the Departments of Defence and External Affairs, and about 20 members of Parliament from all three parties.

Former British Columbia Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson, who also served as a federal Liberal cabinet minister in the mid-1960s, died recently in Vancouver General Hospital after a lengthy illness. He was 81. Mr. Nicholson was appointed lieutenant-governor in July 1968 and served as the Queen's representative in British Columbia until February 1973.

Agreement has been reached on the terms of a jointly-funded \$125 000 feasi-

bility study on the use of propane and natural gas as substitutes for oil in the Northwest Territories. The agreement was announced by the Minister of Energy Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development John Munro and Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources for the government of the Northwest Territories Richard Nerysoo. The government of Canada will provide funding up to a maximum of \$75 000 and the Territorial government the balance. The study is part of a \$19-million program of Federal Energy Initiatives for the North first announced by the government of Canada in April 1982. The initiatives were undertaken to assist the Territories in their efforts towards off-oil conversion and energy conservation.

Three hundred people from all regions of Canada are attending the second Canadian Conference on Aging being held in Ottawa, October 24 to 27. The first national conference on aging was held in 1966. This second conference is a follow-up to the United Nations' World Assembly on Aging (WAA) convened in Vienna in 1982. The Canadian report prepared for the WAA set forth the situation in Canada and identified the most urgent issues regarding aging and the aged.

Fisheries expert Reuben Lasker has

been awarded the 1983 Huntsman Award in marine science by the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. The Canadian award was given for his studies of changing food conditions in the oceans, which helps explain why populations of sardines and anchovies fluctuate dramatically. Dr. Lasker is professor of marine biology at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, California and is chief of the coastal fisheries resources division of the Southwest Fisheries Centre in La Jolla, California.

The federal government has awarded a \$68-million contract to Bombardier Inc. of Valcourt, Quebec to make a new light-duty vehicle that will replace the familiar Jeep used for the past 30 years. Bombardier is to supply 1 900 of the vehicles, named the ILTIS Canadian. It was developed originally for the West German army by Volkswagen Audi. Bombardier acquired manufacturing rights world-wide in March 1982. The four-wheel-drive truck can carry 500 kilograms, climb 60-degree grades and operate in water 0.6 metres deep.

Everything shook, rattled and rolled, but the only damage caused by the early-morning earthquake, October 7, was to the nerves. The tremor — at 6:20 a.m. — startled thousands of people in eastern Ontario, western Quebec and the north-eastern United States. Some were almost tossed out of bed and others grabbed for breakfast dishes sliding off kitchen tables. The earthquake, centred in the tiny resort town of Blue Mountain Lake in New York's Adirondack Mountains, measured 5.2 on the Richter scale, and affected areas as far away as Fredericton, New Brunswick. But the quakes' after-shocks, the tremors Ottawa felt, registered about 4.0 on the scale.

Canada Weekly is published by the Public Affairs Branch, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

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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.

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.

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