

# In the Running for the Games

Victoria is Canada's choice in the bid for the 1994 Commonwealth Games. One of three cities in the running, Victoria's strong bid is bolstered by its first-class sporting facilities. As well, it is home to Canada's National Coaching Institute and has several superb lawn bowling greens. And with 69 Victoria athletes in the 1986 Commonwealth Games and 39 in the 1984 Summer Olympics, the city has a strong tradition of excellence in amateur sport.

Victoria's Inner Harbour offers an attractive yet unusual setting for opening and closing ceremonies, where floating barges would serve as a stage for athletes and officials, while spectators would be seated on the encircling shore. The chosen demonstration event, logger sports, is also an original proposal. A part of the west coast logging scene for over a century, today the sport has evolved into a legitimate athletic test of strength, endurance and agility. Displays and friendly competitions with visiting teams would highlight log sawing, log rolling and tree climbing.

The final decision on the Games' venue will be made this fall in Seoul, South Korea.

as computer software and desk-top publishing has emerged. And recently Wang Canada, a worldwide computer firm, established a major research and development centre in the city.

Technological expertise exists in other fields too. As an island city, Victoria has developed a highly sophisticated transportation network of ferries, aircraft and hovercraft, ensuring rapid, high-capacity connections to the mainland. Helicopters make it possible to travel 69 km from downtown Vancouver to Victoria in one hour. The B.C. Ferry Corporation has the world's largest and most up-to-date ferry fleet which can transport 60 000 passengers per day.

Nearby Patricia Bay Institute of Ocean Services is a world leader in marine research and technology. Together with local firms, it has developed advanced underwater robotic systems and submersibles for deep sea exploration and salvage. The Astrophysical Observatory houses one of the world's largest reflecting telescopes and draws scientists from around the world to study the solar system.

Traditional industries such as agriculture have also been reinvigorated with innovative adaptations. Recent experiments in growing kiwi fruit in hothouses have been encouraging and hold great promise of tapping the growing North American market for the fruit.

In addition, Victoria is pursuing new markets in Asian and Pacific countries. Says Isobel MacKenzie of the Victoria Business and Industrial Development Commission: "We have recognized the importance of our geography with the Pacific Rim and the potential to become major trading partners."

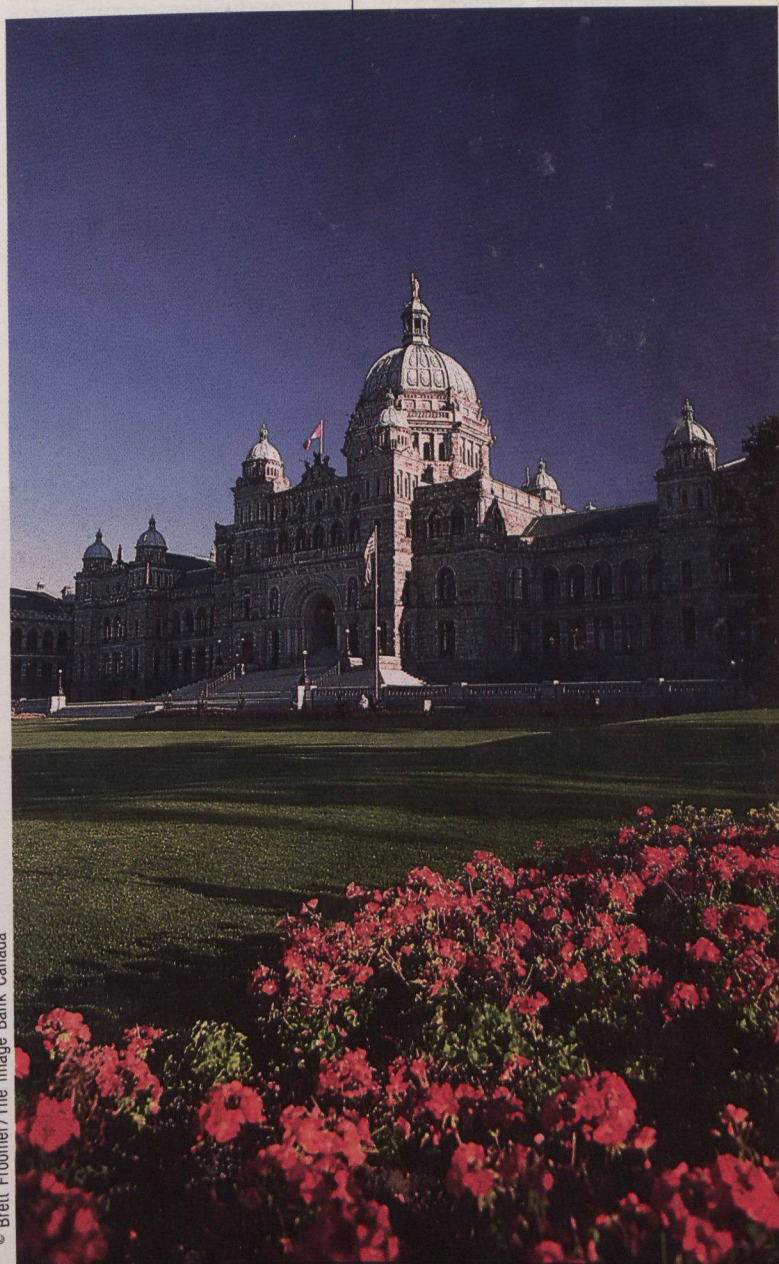
## Pacific Links

Canada's characteristic multicultural identity is evident in Victoria, particularly in its Japanese and Chinese communities. Victoria is, in fact, twinned with both Morioka, Japan, and Suzhou, China. Historic Chinatown is home to one of Canada's oldest Chinese communities. Its entrance is marked by the decorative Gate of Harmonious Interest at whose feet sit two impressive hand-carved stone lions — a gift from the city of Suzhou. Inside, restoration and revitalization have transformed Chinatown into a creative haven for artists and artisans.

The Centre for Asia and Pacific Initiatives at the University of Victoria studies current issues in international legal and economic relations. As a body of expertise on the Asia-Pacific region, it will share its academic knowledge with the government and private sectors.

The University of Victoria has a history of co-operation with countries in Asia and the Pacific. For the past six years the Faculty of Education has sponsored a

Capital of British Columbia, Victoria is home to the provincial Parliament buildings opened in 1898.



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