

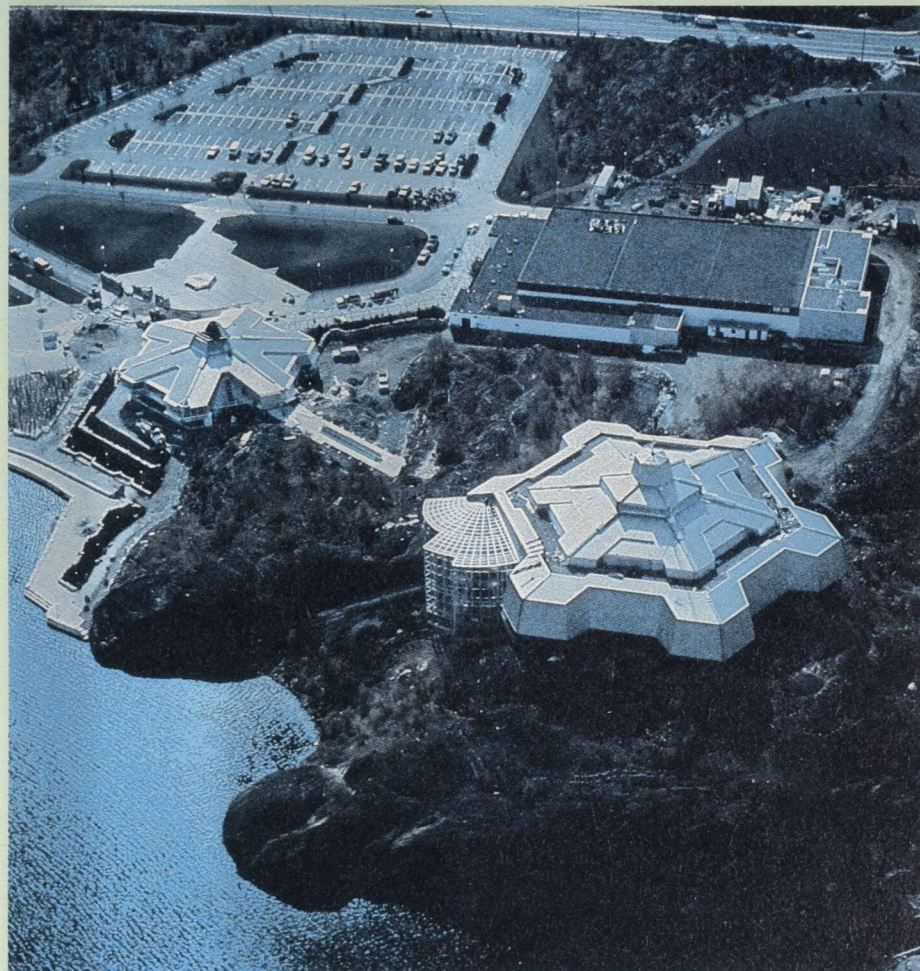
# Capsules

## Science North

Canada's newest science centre, SCIENCE NORTH, located on a lake-side in the northern Ontario city of Sudbury, opened its doors to the public on June 19, 1984. The Centre has a distinctly northern flavor and an emphasis on the unique geological features of the local region, both of which are reflected in its architecture. SCIENCE NORTH's main exhibit building (about 8 500 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space) is a snowflake-shaped hexagonal structure sitting over an excavated rock cavern almost 35 m in diameter and 10 m deep. The designers see the snowflake as a symbol of the glaciation and climate that shaped the northern terrain, and the cavern as representative of the so-called Sudbury structure, a huge, mineral-rich basin thought to have been created by a meteorite impact over two billion years ago. (Sudbury is Canada's premier mining community and home to the world's largest metal extraction and refining complex.)

The Centre's northern focus is also featured in the design of its exhibit program. Besides mainstream scientific themes like computers and communications, the science of matter from atoms through to galaxies, and techniques for the measurement of human physiological performance, there are exhibits that centre on the atmosphere and northern weather, the northern Ontario ecosystem and survival of life in Arctic Canada, and the geology of the Canadian Shield and Sudbury basin.

Like other centres of its kind, SCIENCE NORTH is set up for visitor participation, with demonstrations that call for the pushing of buttons, the turning of cranks, and so on. In addition, however, there is also a scientific staff on hand to answer questions and generally interact with the public. In this 'hands on' atmosphere, visitors can examine small animals adapted to the north at the side of a biologist, work on soapstone carvings with a northern artist, identify minerals or fossils with the help of a geologist,



Science North

*Science North, on the shore of Ramsey Lake in Sudbury, Ontario.*

and learn lens grinding from a trained astronomer.

Conceived in late 1979 and almost three years in the building, SCIENCE



Carisse Graphic Design Ltd.

NORTH was financed from funds collected from a variety of sources, both public and private. Principal among the institutions, agencies and firms contributing to SCIENCE NORTH's 25 million dollar capital budget were Inco Ltd. and Falconbridge Ltd. (both local industries) the federal and Ontario governments, the City of Sudbury and the surrounding Regional Municipality, and many other private donors.

For vacationers passing through central Canada, particularly cross-country travellers, SCIENCE NORTH is especially accessible, located as it is at the nexus of the Trans-Canada Highway as it moves west, south and east (see map).