

## New high-speed rescue boat

A Kingston, Ontario, company has developed a new breed of high-speed rescue boat for use on the oceans.

Len Fowler, vice-president of Kingston Marine Industries, said the company will concentrate its initial marketing of the \$80 000 Manta 22 on the oil and gas fields off Canada's East Coast. But the craft has capabilities for coast guard and military use as well.

The Manta is a rigid-hull inflatable, a type developed in Britain about 20 years ago. It has a 6-1/2 metre aluminum hull. It is self-righting and is designed to handle winds of up to Force 8 on the Beaufort scale and waves of up to 14 metres high.

Mr. Fowler said the Manta is not a lifeboat. As a rescue vessel, it can be based on a ship or drilling rig or on shore for use when a rescue is necessary.

### Rescue boat

As a rescue boat, it would be capable of fishing individuals from the water or acting as a sheep dog for a group of lifeboats from a sinking vessel.

A conventional lifeboat, while often safe and dry with passengers aboard, does not have the power or manoeuvrability to pick up people from rough water and get them on board.

The Manta is powered by a 165-horsepower diesel engine with a self-contained cooling system, which means the engine can be warmed up and running long before the hull actually touches the water.

The vessel has some special features that should make it more attractive than foreign



Kingston Marine Industries' Manta 22 rescue boat is now being tested in Kingston, Ontario.

products competing for the same market.

It uses a "jet drive" unit, which propels the boat with a stream of water rather than by an exposed propeller, so it can navigate in shallow water or light ice conditions without damage to the drive unit.

The engine can drive the boat at speeds of up to 50 kilometres an hour, and the jet drive has been modified to increase manoeuvrability. The boat can turn in its own length and go from full speed to stop in just two boat lengths.

### Handlebar system

Steering is enhanced by a snowmobile-style handlebar system rather than the conventional wheel. The throttle control is incorporated into the handlebar, allowing the driver to keep both hands on the bars while adjusting the throttle.

Orchestra.

To promote awareness of the musical idioms characteristic of North and South America, Youth and Music Canada has chosen as the theme for the congress "Music of the Americas: the youngest music in the world?" The theme will be developed in several concerts presented by Canadian artists specializing in folklore and jazz, as well as contemporary, Amerindian and Inuit music. Ethnomusicologists and Canadian and American experts will lead workshops on the music of the pre-Columbian, industrial and mass-media areas.

The Montreal Congress will also host the start of the Young Performer World Festival, an international showcase for promising young musicians from Canada and abroad.

Mr. Fowler said this feature, unique to the Manta, is important in rough weather when the speed of the boat and the height of the waves can make simply hanging on one of the toughest jobs.

The boat can tip almost past 90 degrees and still roll back to upright. A total capsize is rectified by an inflatable bag mounted on a tower at the rear of the boat. The bag will bring the boat to 90 degrees from upright and the natural buoyancy will complete the process.

Tests have shown that the boat can be righted in 23 seconds. The increase in drilling activity off the East Coast and concern about safety are creating a demand for boats like the Manta.

The company has one prototype boat built for tests and demonstrations. Production is expected to begin this summer.

## Canada hosts international congress

Canada will host the thirty-second International Congress of the Fédération internationale des Jeunes musiques (FIJM), which will be held next year from July 20 to August 4.

The International Congress, organized by Youth and Music Canada, will bring together 500 young musicians, music lovers, managers, volunteers and delegates from FIJM member countries. The group will make a two-week tour of Canada, visiting Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta. The event will coincide with the International Year of Youth and the anniversaries of the founding of Youth and Music Canada, the FIJM and the Jeunes Musicales World

## Canada-Belgium literary prize

The Belgian writer Claire Lejeune has been awarded the 1983 Canada-Belgium literary prize. This annual \$2 500 award is given in alternate years to French-language writers in Canada and Belgium.

Born in Havré in 1926, Claire Lejeune's career as a poet and essayist spans 30 years. Her work forms part of the post-war school of philosophical poetry. In 1962 she founded *Cahiers internationaux de symbolisme*, and 1965, *Réseaux*, a journal of moral and political philosophy.

Among her literary works are *Le dernier testament* and *Elle* (1969), *Mémoire de rien* (1972) and *L'issue* (1980). In *L'Atelier*, published in 1979, Claire Lejeune refers to Canada, which she has visited several times.