News of the arts

Volume 12, No. 2 January 11, 1984

Early maps depict Toronto's growth

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An exhibition of 60 important early Foronto maps depicting the city's growth will be on view at the Canadiana Building, and Royal Ontario Museum until April 1, 1984. The exhibition, entitled Mapping the Toronto's First Century: 1787-1884, uilt is sponsored jointly by the Toronto Historical Board, the McLean Foundation Ilia, and the Royal Ontario Museum as part of in a Toronto's Sesquicentennial celebration. ling

The exhibition includes both original manuscript and printed maps drawn from ^{seve}ral archival, museum and library sources. Many of the maps have never been on public display.

The selection ranges from a simple ^{outline} of land purchased from the Indians in 1787 to maps showing details of every building from Goad's Atlas of 1884. Collectively the maps illustrate the establishment and expansion of Toronto ^{from} the original town surveys to the ^{emerging} metropolis of 100 years ago.

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Topographical plan of the City of Toronto in the Province of Canada (1851). From an actual survey by J. Stoughton Dennis, Provincial Land Surveyor.

Film portrays Canadian flying ace

An 80-minute National Film Board (NFB) documentary on Canada's First World War flying ace, William Avery (Billy) Bishop, was presented recently on PBS Television.

Directed by Montreal NFB filmmaker Paul Cowan, The Kid Who Couldn't Miss goes beyond the conventional documenary in examining the life and career of the brash, ambitious kid from Owen Sound, Ontario who became the leading Player in what Billy Bishop himself called the greatest game in the world". Mr. Cowan conveys the excitement and gamour of the "dogfight" and, at the same time, looks at the harsh realities of ife as a fighter pilot and at the subtle Manipulation of men like Billy Bishop into heroes.

To the Germans, Mr. Bishop was Nown as "Hell's Handmaiden", while the British he was the "rude, Cana-Colonial". Through a combination good luck and charm, he succeeded escaping the mud of the trenches in joining the select inner circle of house Britain's Royal Flying Corps. e asso

By the end of the war, he had chalked ¹⁰ 72 kills and was the Allies' highest-^{©oring} fighter pilot.

Paul Cowan's search for material book him to Ottawa, England, France, Mermany and Hollywood. His efforts

uncovered some spectacular aerial footage that has never been shown before. Edited by Mr. Cowan and associate editor Sidonie Kerr, the film took a year to research and assemble. In addition to the dogfight footage there are scenes from the stage show Billy Bishop Goes to War, starring Eric Peterson, and interviews with some of the men who knew and flew with Billy Bishop.

Forrester named Council head

Maureen Forrester, one of Canada's most renowned opera contraltos, has been appointed chairman of the Canada Council. Maureen Forrester, whose appointment takes effect im-



mediately, will replace Maureen Forrester Mavor Moore, who stepped down last September. The 53-year-old contralto was appointed a trustee of the National Arts Centre Corporation in 1973 and was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1967.

Maureen Forrester, whose singing career has included classical works and pop musicals, has received numerous awards, including one from the Banff School of Fine Arts and the Harriet Cohen International Music Award.

Arts briefs

The late Glen Gould's practice piano, acquired for Government House in Ottawa, was used for the first time in concert at Rideau Hall on December 2, 1983. The occasion was a dinner given by Governor General and Mrs. Edward Schreyer for a cross-section of Canadians. Following the dinner, a piano recital was given by Vancouver pianist Jon Kimura Parker who performed works of Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Bach/Hess and Liszt.

Three of the four original members of the Canadian rock group, Bachman-Turner Overdrive have reunited and are currently in the studio working on a new album. Randy Bachman, Fred Turner and Tim Bachman have been joined by former Guess Who drummer Gary Peterson. A world tour is planned for 1984. The highly successful Bachman-Turner Overdrive sold more than 11 million records throughout the world between 1973 and 1978.

The movie based on Canada's young marathon hero, The Terry Fox Story, has won two US cable television awards in Los Angeles. The film, made by Toronto's Robert Cooper Productions, won the sixth annual Award for Cable Excellence (ACE) for best dramatic program over 60 minutes. Director Ralph Thomas also won the best directing award in the same category for the film.