

Vacationers choose Canada

Canadians took more vacation trips in Canada in 1979 than in 1978, a continuation of a trend towards increased domestic vacation travel which began two years ago, according to the study by the Canadian Government Office of Tourism.

There was a significant increase in the number of Canadians who regarded package tours in Canada as offering equal or better value than tours offered in the United States or overseas, according to the report.

While the number of Canadians taking vacation trips in 1979 remained constant compared with 1978 (55 per cent), more of these vacationers also took a second trip. This led to a 3 per cent increase in the number of vacation trips taken and a 7 per cent increase in domestic vacation trips.

Although only 35 per cent of Canadian vacationers took more than one trip in 1979, they accounted for 57 per cent of total vacation trips taken.

The increase in domestic travel cut deeply into vacation travel to the United States from Canada. While 62 per cent of vacation trips were taken exclusively in Canada (up from 58 per cent in 1978), just 26 per cent were taken in the U.S. (down from 29 per cent in 1978 and 32 per cent in 1977), and trips to other countries remained relatively constant at 13 per cent.

The decline in travel to the United States was most noticeable at border regions accessible by car, and in the summer months.

The number of Canadians taking trips within their own province remained constant with 1978 at 39 per cent. Travel to other provinces increased to 33 per cent last year compared with 29 per cent in 1978.

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News briefs

Canada's former Ambassador to Moscow, Robert Ford has been appointed Special Adviser on East-West Relations by Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan. Mr. Ford, who retired from the Public Service September 1 after a 40-year career with the Canadian Foreign Service, was Ambassador to Moscow from 1964 until his retirement. Dr. MacGuigan said that the government wished to retain Mr. Ford as a special adviser and consultant in order to benefit from his unequalled experience and expertise on international issues of current concern.

Telecom Canada Limited has signed an agreement with Alfa Industries of Mexico to form a jointly-owned marketing and manufacturing company in that country. The new company will distribute, and later manufacture under licence, Northern Telecom's business communications systems.

Spar Aerospace Limited of Toronto has been awarded two contracts by Hughes Aircraft Co. of Los Angeles for the supply of components and subsystems for four new satellites being built by Hughes. Total value of the two contracts is \$4.4 million. The components and subsystems include satellite structures, power electronics, antenna positioning electronics, encoders, decoders and satellite altitude control electronics.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) and the Royal Bank of Canada announced the conclusion of a \$24.5-million (U.S.) financing arrangement to support the sale of an off-shore jack-up drilling platform (rig) by Davie Shipbuilding Limited of Lauzon, Quebec. The \$35-million (U.S.) sale, to Petroleo Brasileiro S.A. (Petrobras), Brazil's national petroleum company, includes related support services. This rig will be incorporated into Petrobras' mobile drilling rig fleet and will be used for oil and natural gas exploration along the Brazilian continental shelf.

TransCanada Pipelines Limited of Calgary is reorganizing its structure to reflect the diversification that began several months ago when a wholly-owned subsidiary, TCPL Resources Ltd., spent \$315-million for an interest of about 12 per cent in the offshore petroleum holdings of Dome Petroleum Ltd. of Calgary. Dome is the largest TransCanada shareholder with about 47 per cent of the

shares outstanding. Following the reorganization, a corporate staff organization providing support and direction for the operating divisions and the executive offices will be located in Toronto.

Bell Canada of Montreal will begin a two-year joint trial with the federal Communications Department in 1981 to test a new, two-way, data transmission service that couples telephone lines with ordinary colour television sets. The new system, called Vista, will allow information to be sent and received in French and English between points in Quebec and Ontario. The service will give subscribers access to printed or graphic information in computer data banks.

Hughette Labelle of Ottawa recently became the first woman to be elected president of the Canadian Red Cross. Mrs. Labelle, who has been a volunteer Red Cross worker since 1973, is assistant deputy minister for corporate policy in the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced that allowances paid to trainees under the Canada Manpower training program (CMTP) will be increased. The minister said the increases will make CMTP more responsive to the needs of those who require training to find better-paying jobs or to re-enter the labour force. Training allowances are generally paid to persons who do not qualify for unemployment insurance benefits or who must first serve a waiting period. The new weekly rates for trainees are: those living with an employed parent or spouse, \$25; those on their own without dependents, \$70; those on their own with one dependent, \$90; and those on their own with two dependents, \$105.

Canada won the gold medal recently in the Nation's Cup event in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The show-jumping competition was held as an alternative for top horsemen who boycotted the Olympic Games. Mark Laskin of Edmonton, making his international *début* on Damurz, led the four-member Canadian team with two faultless rounds. Ian Millar of Perth, Ontario, riding Brother Sam, Michel Vaillancourt of Hudson, Quebec, on Chivaz, and Jim Elder of Aurora, Ontario, on Volunteer, also rode for Canada. Canada's combined winning score was 16.5, to 18.5 for Britain and 20 for Austria.