

News of the arts

Archives marks centennial of Royal Canadian Academy of Arts

The Public Archives of Canada is marking the centennial of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, founded in March 1880 to promote all forms of Canadian-produced art, with a special exhibit of photographs.

The exhibition consists of 20 original prints by five distinguished photographers, all members of the Academy. It includes a glimpse of the customs of the Hutterite communities of Alberta as seen by Kryn Taconis, Gabor Szilasi's perception of the landscapes and inhabitants of l'île aux Coudres, and portraits from the collections of Walter Curtin, Yousuf Karsh and Sam Tata.

The exhibit will be on display until June 2 at the Public Archives of Canada on Wellington Street in Ottawa.



Hutterite elder, Ewelme Colony, Alberta, in 1963 photograph by Kryn Taconis.

Canada celebrates 60 years of radio

Radio in Canada is 60 years old and many radio and television stations marked the anniversary of the birth of the industry with a week of special programs on February 24-March 1.

It was in 1919 that radio station CFCF Montreal was licensed as the first in the world to offer regular programming.

By 1923 there were 44 stations across the country, bringing the miracle of the broadcast human voice to lonely farm houses of the Prairies and fishing villages in the Maritimes.

Jim Allard, Ottawa broadcasting consultant and historian of private broadcasting in Canada, says it's difficult now to visualize the excitement broadcasting generated in the early years. In 1927, he says, when Canada celebrated its 60th birthday, 23 radio stations set up a coast-to-coast network, broadcasting across Canada for the first time the sounds of the Peace Tower bells on Parliament Hill.

Another cross-country hookup carried the opening of Parliament for the first time in 1930.

During the Second World War, radio provided news of the battles at a speed not previously possible. By war's end, there were 105 stations in Canada.

Since then, television and cable TV have joined the scene. There now are 550 cable systems, 102 TV stations and about 570 AM and FM radio stations.

Television came in September 1952, when CBC stations in Montreal and Toronto went on air within days of each other.

Now, 99 per cent of Canadians get radio; 98 per cent get TV; cable reaches 75 per cent of the population and people in 250 communities have access to local cable TV studios.

(From an article by Eric Murray, Canadian Press.)

Maillet novel to be filmed

Antonine Maillet's novel *Pelagie-la-Charrette*, which won France's Prix Goncourt last year, will be made into a film.

The movie, to be filmed in Toronto, Louisiana and New Brunswick, will be produced by Nielsen Ferns International of Toronto and directed by Rene Bonniere.

The book, a historical novel based on the return trek of exiled Acadians to their Maritime homeland 300 years ago, has become a best-seller in Quebec and France since the literary prize was awarded.

It has become the first literary work to sell more than 100,000 copies in Quebec. Since its release in September, the hard-cover novel has not only captured the Quebec market, but has also sold 300,000 copies in Europe.

NFB Oscar nominations

Four National Film Board works — two shorts and two documentaries — received nominations recently at the fifty-second Academy Award Nominations in Hollywood.

The nominations for Academy Awards to be presented in Los Angeles on April 14, were announced by the NFB. They are:

- Best animated short: *Every Child*, directed by Eugene Fedorenko, Canada's contribution to a one-hour, United Nations-produced film on last year's International Year of the Child.
- Best live-action short: *Bravery in the Field*, directed by Giles Walker, about the conflict between a Second-World-War veteran and a young tough.
- Best feature-length documentary: *Going the Distance*, directed by Paul Cowan, the story of the 11th Commonwealth Games in Edmonton in 1979.
- Best short documentary: *Nails*, directed by Phillip Borso, an account of the evolution of the nail-making process.

The NFB won one Academy Award last year and two in 1978.

Special Delivery, last year's Oscar winner for best animation short film, opened recently in London at the 1400-seat Leicester Square Theatre for a six-week run. The NFB production will tour Britain, with more than twenty prints in circulation for the various bookings.