

## News briefs

Retired Canadians are joining together under a federal government program to volunteer their services to their communities. These older citizens are being supported by \$1.257 million in New Horizons grants recently announced by Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin. The grants will cover 193 projects throughout Canada for over 22 000 participants.

Canada's official monetary reserves rose \$127.4 million (US) in December, according to the federal Finance Department. At December 31, 1982 reserves of gold, foreign currencies and other financial assets totalled \$3.79 billion, up from \$3.67 billion a month earlier, but down from \$4.37 billion a year earlier.

The official inflation rate has fallen below 10 per cent but the decline is stalling. Statistics Canada said consumer prices rose by only 9.8 per cent during the 12 months ending in November 1982. It was the first time the year-over-year inflation rate has dropped below 10 per cent since May 1980. However, on a month-to-month basis, the inflation rate remained steady since mid-summer when it fell dramatically.

The federal and Manitoba governments have announced details of a demonstration project to investigate methanol blends as transportation fuels. Total cost of the two-year demonstration project will be \$385 700. The project will test and demonstrate the use of methanol as a vehicle fuel in Manitoba weather. Two fuel types are proposed: a low-percentage (5 per cent) blend with gasoline, and "neat" methanol with low-temperature starting additives. Field trials will be undertaken on three fleets of 25 vehicles each. Two of the fleets will use methanol-based fuels, while the control group will use standard unleaded gasoline.

Canadian athletes grabbed both top titles at a two-day international speed skating event held in Madonna di Campiglio, Italy, January 12-13. Gaetan Boucher of Brossard, Quebec, a silver medallist in the 1982 world championships, completed a sweep of all four sprint races he entered to capture the men's title and Sylvie Daigle of Sherbrooke, Quebec, took three of four events on the outdoor track to win the women's championship. Jean Pichette of Ste. Foy, Quebec won the Nicolodi Trophy for distance events up to 5 000 metres, capitalizing on a series of top placings but no victories.



The Citizen

As Governor General Edward Schreyer (centre) looks on, Jennifer Graham, 7, and Jan Conradi help 107-year-old skiing pioneer Herman "Jackrabbit" Smith-Johannsen put on his number for the Shell Jackrabbit Ski Day held in Ottawa. More than 500 youngsters, including two of the Schreyer children, took part in the event.

Canada has passed China to become the third-largest gold producing country in the world, according to the Gold Institute. The Washington-based association of gold mining companies, refiners and dealers reported in its annual survey that Canadian production rose to an estimated 1.84 million troy ounces last year. Actual production in 1981 was 1.41 million ounces. Chinese production was 1.69 million ounces in 1981 and rose to an estimated 1.77 million ounces last year.

Starting daylight time two months earlier would save Canadians about \$23.8 million a year in electrical energy, says a National Research Council official. Cecil Costain of the council's electrical and time standards, estimates starting daylight time at the beginning of March instead of the end of April would provide an additional 1.3 billion hours of sunlight and would knock about \$1.50 off each household's monthly electric bill.

The federal government has agreed to pay Yukon Indians \$183 million to settle one of the three largest native land claims in Canada. In exchange for the money, the Council for Yukon Indians will give up its aboriginal claim to most of the Yukon. The native-rights group represents the territory's 5 500 Indians. The Yukon is 478 034 square kilometres in

land area, or almost the size of the four Atlantic provinces combined.

Terry Fox, the young cancer victim from Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, who inspired millions with his attempt to run across Canada in 1980 and who died June 28, 1981, a month short of his twenty-third birthday, is credited in the *Guinness Book of World Records* 1983 edition with having raised the greatest amount of money in a charity walk or run. The entry, in the "economic" records category, says that in his 143-day, 5 373-kilometre run he raised \$24.7 million. He had lost a leg to cancer.

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