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## Ontario firm flying high with scaffolding

In less than two decades, an Ontario firm has become one of North America's largest manufacturers and distributors of suspended scaffolding.

Swing Stage was founded in 1962 as a two-man operation working out of a small, wood-frame garage in northwest Toronto. The company now has branches in Montreal, Vancouver and Los Angeles and employs 175 staff. It has gone from renting manually-operated aluminum stages to providing a complete range of permanent and portable window-maintenance systems, customized to individual needs, that it manufactures, supplies, installs and services.

"Seventy-eight per cent of our Canadian production is now exported," said company president Dean Dunlop, "with 70 per cent going to the United States. Sales have risen from \$3.8 million in 1977 to \$11 million in 1981. I feel a lot of this success has to do with our safety-conscious approach."

### Safety stressed

Swing Stage has placed a great emphasis on safety in the systems it has designed, many of which have been unusual and have required considerable ingenuity in

developing proper access.

To maintain an excellent safety record, the company has always worked closely with architects and engineers, especially on permanent window-washing installations.

"Many of the unique safety features we've developed are now being specified for new buildings," Mr. Dunlop said.

Swing Stage's list of accomplishments is long. In addition to those already mentioned, it installed the longest suspended stage in Canada — 20 metres — on a building in Montreal, and all of the window maintenance equipment for the Mirabel Airport in Montreal, one of the longest glass-covered surfaces ever designed.

At its twentieth anniversary celebration last year, the firm held its own international trade exhibition which attracted about 700 participants from Canada, the US and Europe. At the same gathering, Mr. Dunlop announced that Swing Stage had been awarded a multi-million-dollar contract with the US Air Force, three other major building contracts in the US and another three in western Canada.

The firm also announced it would be forming an association with a major

British company that will allow Swing Stage to service the oil and petrochemical industry. Most of the equipment needed to supply these foreign ventures will be manufactured domestically.

As the buildings that Swing Stage services get higher and higher, so do the company's sales. The firm's manufacturing division had contracts in 1981 amounting to less than \$6 million. Contracts for 1982 accounted for about \$14 million.

(Article from Ontario Business News, June 1982.)

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## Canadian studies office marks first year of service

The Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS) celebrated the first anniversary of its national secretariat in Washington, D.C. on March 1.

During the past year, membership, now approaching 900, has increased by more than 50 per cent. While the majority of the members are academics, there has been marked growth on the part of lawyers, consultants and corporate executives involved in Canada-US relations.

ACSUS will hold its biennial conference in Rockport, Maine from September 29 to October 1. The program will include over 50 sessions representing all areas of Canadian studies, ranging from trade, energy and foreign policy to literature, culture and communications.

### Survey conducted

The association is also conducting a nation-wide survey to determine the extent of Canadian studies in colleges and universities throughout the United States. Questionnaires have been sent to each university and four-year college as well as to every ACSUS member. The results will be published in May. The nation-wide study, the first of its kind, is being made possible by a grant from Northern Telecom Limited of Montreal.

The association publishes a biannual newsletter, *Canadian Studies Update*, as well as a triannual journal, *The American Review of Canadian Studies*. Through regular mailings, members are informed of Canadian studies activities throughout the United States.

For further information about ACSUS, please contact: Dr. Ellen Reisman Babby, Executive Officer, Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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## Stamp marks communications year

Canada Post has issued a postage stamp in honour of World Communications Year.

"The postage stamp is probably the most widely used means of communication, and it is only fitting that a Canadian stamp issue be part of World Communications Year activities," said André Ouellet, Minister responsible for Canada Post.

"The postal service plays a vital role in communications and contributes a great deal to making the goals of World Communications Year a reality," R. Michael Warren, President of Canada Post Corporation, added. "The country's postal service helps to reduce isolation, promote commerce, connect governments and people, and facilitate the exchange of ideas."

The World Communications Year stamp was designed by Raymond Bellemare of Montreal. The design features a symbolic multicolour globe surrounded by orbits, suggesting the universal nature of communication and the impact of technical innovation.

In 1981 the General Assembly of the United Nations declared 1983 World Communications Year: Development of Communications Infrastructures. By doing so, the assembly has officially recognized the fundamental importance of communications infrastructures to the economic and social development of all countries. The assembly views World Communications Year as "the beginning of a new era where every nation will be in a position to benefit from the services provided by equitably and harmoniously developed communications infrastructures".

