

peared, lingering only in Prince Edward Island.

Now blacksmiths are back in business making the spiked horseshoes that keep the horses from slipping on the ice and top drivers from across North America are invited to participate. Horses are chosen by lot, and the \$9,000 in prize money goes to the owners of the winning horses.



Carnival-goers dance on canal.

The races took place on the last day of the carnival and included six quarter-mile dashes. The first place winner was eight-year-old pacer Wee He with driver Buddy Gilmour in the bike. They crossed the wire in 27.2 seconds to win the Governor General's cup and \$5,000 in prize money.

Marathon attracts international entries

The Canadian Ski Marathon was another feature of the Winterlude activities. The two-day cross-country ski competition covered a 160-kilometre course which began in Lachute, Quebec and ended in Ottawa.

Nearly 4,000 cross-country skiers took part in the event. Most skiers were from Ontario and Quebec, but about 500 came from other countries, including 23 from France. Skiers, who attempted to complete the 160-kilometre course in the most difficult manner, including sleeping in the snow, are called the gold *coureurs de bois*.

Closing ceremonies at Dow's Lake featured an ice skating show. Organizers already are looking ahead to next year with one of the goals to make Winterlude a more international event.

Emergency feeding to save wildlife

The Saskatchewan government has begun a program to save starving wildlife in that province

The \$70,000 program was started to help save starving white-tailed deer, pheasants and Hungarian partridge south of Regina.

In co-operation with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, the wildlife branch of the provincial Department of Tourism and Renewable Resources, is distributing alfalfa pellet feed to the animals in the area.

The designated emergency area runs roughly from the Manitoba border to Weyburn, through the Big Muddy country south of Regina, through the Assiniboia-Gravelbourg areas all the way west to the Cypress Hills at the Alberta border.

Harsh winter

The extremely harsh winter, which has witnessed the second-coldest January on record in Saskatchewan, has already claimed 50 per cent of the Hungarian partridge in the area and threatened the existence of as many as 40 per cent of the estimated 50,000 white-tailed deer. Fawns born last spring have less fat reserve than older animals and are especially vulnerable to starvation. Some deer have already died of starvation in the Weyburn area.

The situation has been complicated by a thick crust which formed on the snow earlier than usual this year and has made it difficult for the animals to reach traditional feeding spots.

As the starving deer had started to eat from the haystacks on farms in the more populated areas interceptor feeders were setup between haystack areas and deer bedding areas. Snowmobiles have been used to set up feeding stations in more remote areas where animals have been stranded in deep snow.

Farmers are also being encouraged to set up their own feeding stations and they will be asked for donations of grain and high-quality hay if the severe winter conditions continue.

Government aircraft will be used to check feeding stations and keep an eye on the animals, and farmers are being asked to report sightings of deer herds.

Feeding stations for the birds are being set up at one-mile intervals along the shoulders of isolated country roads where traffic is light.

Farm information by computer

Agriculture Canada has begun a new computer service to provide commodity information to Canadian agricultural organizations.

Called FARMBANK, the service is a time series data base, which was designed primarily to assist market analysts in government offices, trade organizations, producer groups, businesses and other organizations.

FARMBANK contains detailed information on prices, production, stocks, consumption, imports and exports for all major grains, livestock, dairy, and poultry and egg products on a regional, national and international basis. It also contains farm income statistics, retail prices and general economic data. The service provides selected weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual data, dating in some cases as far back as 1965.

The data base was collected from a number of sources, including the federal government, provincial governments, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Monetary Fund.

FARMBANK is available on-line using a computer terminal and a telephone link-up for a monthly fee from the Conference Board of Canada or from Datacrown Incorporated, distributors of the service.

Relief for Madagascar and Peru

Canada will contribute \$30,000 to aid cyclone victims in Madagascar and \$100,000 for victims of floods and landslides in Peru.

The grants will be made in response to an urgent appeal from the League of Red Cross Societies and are being provided through the Canadian International Development Agency.

In Madagascar, a recent cyclone and subsequent flooding has damaged over 33,000 houses leaving almost 32,000 people, most of whom are children, homeless. The \$30,000 grant will be used to purchase supplies, including milk powder and children's clothing.

The Uchiza and Tingo Maria districts of Peru and the province of Cuzco suffered severe flooding and landslides in late January leaving 6,000 homeless. The \$100,000 grant will help to provide shelter, blankets, food and transportation vehicles for the relief work, being carried on by the Peruvian Red Cross.

Richard Vroom