

Women widen gap in life expectancy over men

Canadians on the average are living longer but women are continuing to widen their edge in life expectancy over men, according to new mortality figures by Statistics Canada.

The tables show that female life spans have risen by more than a year to 77.48 years, up from 76.36 years from the previous tables. The rise in male life spans is less than a year, to 70.19 years, compared with 69.34 years.

The tables are based on the population enumerated in the 1976 census and deaths occurring from 1975 to 1977, inclusive. Previously, the most recent tables available were based on deaths during the years 1970 to 1972 and related to the 1971 census.

The new mortality rates show a trend towards improvement at all ages, except for males in their late teens and early twenties. High accidental death rates from age 15 to 25 account for the rise in the male mortality curve. Because the number of deaths from natural causes tends to be lower in these years, the increase becomes more noticeable.

Comparing life expectancies and mortality rates between provinces indicates that the general range of variations existing in previous years continues with Saskatchewan showing the most favourable life spans at 78.64 years for females and 71.13 years for males. Quebec has the least favourable at 76.52 years for females and 69.06 years for males.

Life expectancies at different ages for males, with females in brackets are: age 10, 61.57 years (68.71); age 20, 52.09 (58.95); age 30, 42.96 (49.25); age 40, 33.59 (39.67); age 50, 24.86 (30.51); age 60, 17.23 (21.96); age 70, 11.05 (14.33); and age 80, 6.44 (8.15).

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

News briefs

Joseph Morris, Canadian Labour Congress president from 1974-1978 and the first trade unionist ever elected chairman of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (ILO) in 1977, has been re-elected to the post of workers' vice-chairman of the ILO, headquartered in Geneva.

CAE Industries Limited of Toronto will produce the aluminum cylinder heads and manifolds for the Erika, the new world car to be introduced by Ford Motor Co. in North America in the fall of 1980. Production of the components by a subsidiary, CAE-Montupet Diecast Ltd. of St. Catharines, will also mark the introduction of a new process for casting aluminum in North America. The process permits the casting of highly intricate light-weight products for the auto industry.

Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford has named two women as the province's first female ministers in a recent post-election cabinet shuffle. Lynne Verge takes over the education portfolio and Hazel Newhook, the former mayor of Gander, becomes minister of consumer affairs and the environment.

The Montreal police force has sworn in its first woman officer in 32 years. Constable Christiane Forcier, 22, joined the Montreal Urban Community (MUC) police this week as a full patrolling officer. Four other women will be among the next batch of 20 recruits to be sworn in. The force is trying to catch up with a continent-wide trend that has seen women make inroads into virtually every aspect of police work, says an MUC official.

With 18 billion local telephone calls and more than a billion long distance calls in 1977, Canada has retained its reputation as one of the most talkative countries in the world, a spokesman for the Trans-Canada Telephone System said recently. A report by American Telegraph and Telephone surveying 230 countries also shows that in 1978 Canada ranked fourth in the number of telephones *per capita* — 63 phones for every 100 Canadians. Only Switzerland, Sweden and the United States had higher phone densities.

Bridge and Tank Co. of Canada Limited will participate in a \$17-million contract to erect the steel for a bridge to span the Mississippi River, north of

New Orleans, Louisiana. It is a joint venture with Melbourne Brothers Co. of Ohio. The two steel erection firms obtained a \$4-million crane barge to undertake the construction. The entire highway bridge project will cost \$135-million when completed in 1981. Officials at Hamilton-based Bridge and Tank expect construction to begin this month.

Esso Resources Canada Ltd., a subsidiary of Imperial Oil Ltd., plans to spend \$5-million in the next five years searching for uranium in northwestern Manitoba. An Imperial Oil spokesman said Esso Resources will soon sign an exploration agreement with Mid North Uranium Ltd. of The Pas, Manitoba, and Winnipeg, owners of a 32,000-acre claim where test drilling has revealed uranium ore. Esso Resources will have the option at the end of five years to retain a 60 per cent working interest in the property, he said.

The Royal Bank of Canada plans to move most of its U.S. operations to New York from Montreal within the next few months to strengthen its position south of the border, a bank spokesman has announced. About 10 executives in the bank's U.S. division, ranging from vice-president to support staff, will be affected by the move, which is part of a decentralization program that has been underway at the bank for several years, says the spokesman.

Senator Claude Wagner, who ran for the federal Progressive Conservative party leadership in 1975 losing by a narrow margin to Joe Clark, died recently at the age of 54. Born in Shawinigan, Quebec, Mr. Wagner studied at Ottawa University and at McGill University in Montreal. Mr. Wagner joined the Conservative party in 1972 and was appointed to the Senate last year.

A pair of Australians proved recently that their countrymen still rule the waves — at least those that can be conquered in a floating bathtub. While hundreds at Kitsilano Beach, British Columbia, cheered the 62 finishers who made it across the 55-kilometre-wide Georgia Strait in the thirteenth annual Nanaimo-to-Vancouver tub race, Gary Deathridge of Australia retained his world championship with a record run. Close behind was fellow Australian David Bonnici, who ran his tub into the beach four-and-a-half minutes ahead of Larry Weisse of Vancouver.