

## Sweet sounds of music from young violinist



Violinist Heidi Bickis, age 4, is the star-performer at a recent music recital in Ottawa.

The Citizen

### News briefs

The second session of the Canada-Gabon Joint Commission was held in Ottawa, November 30 to December 1, during which Canada and Gabon reviewed the various components of their bilateral relations, in particular in the economic field. The delegations also exchanged views on important issues of international and regional interest to both countries.

The first Canadian oil and gas equipment mission to Mexico took place from December 5-7. Led by Gerald Regan, Minister for International Trade, the mission included 24 Canadian manufacturers of oil and gas equipment. In Mexico, Mr. Regan met with Ramon Beteta, general manager of Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), Mexico's national oil company.

The vacancy rate in private rental apartment buildings with six or more units in 24 Canadian cities dropped to 2.9 per cent in October from 3.1 per cent six months earlier. One year ago the rate was 2.4 per cent; two years ago, 1.4 per cent. The federal government's Canadian Home Ownership Stimulation Plan, providing \$3 000 grants to home buyers, has helped reverse that last figure; 26 000 grants were approved in two years. Currently, the vacancy rate ranges from 0.04 per

cent in Ottawa-Hull and Thunder Bay, Ontario to 12.7 per cent and 9.9 per cent in Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta.

Over two million important business names, from four data bases, are now available through Info Globe, the online information division of Toronto's *The Globe and Mail*. The data bases maintained by Canada Systems Group, are: Corporate names, with summary information on over 2 million federal and provincial incorporations and business names; Canadian Federal Corporations and Directors, with information on 125 000 federally incorporated companies; Inter-Corporate Ownership; and Trade Marks, with information on over 200 000 registered and pending trade marks.

Native people now dominate the Northwest Territories legislature, following the recent election. Inuit, Métis and Indians won 13 of the 24 Territorial Council seats. Council meets in January to choose its leader and seven other members of the executive.

Inco Ltd. of Toronto has received its first order from a ten-year contract to supply nickel oxide to the new Talent Metal Corp., Taiwan. Delivery of 10 000 tonnes, valued at over \$50 million (US), is to be made by 1986. Inco has a 30 per cent interest in Talent Metal and supplies

process and engineering technology.

Du Pont Canada Inc. of Montreal is moving to a new product, hydrogen peroxide, a bleach for pulp and paper and many other industries. A \$75-million plant will be built within Du Pont's existing complex in Maitland, near Brockville, Ontario where energy efficiency and other services there make the proposed plant feasible. Start-up is scheduled for 1986 for an annual capacity of 36 million kilograms, mainly for export to the north eastern United States.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a \$10-million (US) line of credit agreement with Korea Exchange Bank (KEB) of Seoul, Republic of Korea. The line of credit will assist Canadian exporters competing for sales in the Republic of Korea by providing their buyers with a simple and easily accessible credit facility through the bank. It is expected that the main application of the lines of credit will be to support small- and medium-sized export contracts of goods and services. Korea Exchange Bank is the leading internationally-oriented bank in the Republic of Korea and operates more than 60 branches throughout the country. Korea Exchange Bank of Canada is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Korea Exchange Bank Incorporated in Canada under the Bank Act.

Canada Post recently launched its national Santa Claus Letter Program and recruited young patients at Ottawa's Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario to help answer the Christmas wishes of millions of children. Canada Post president Michael Warren says he expects Santa to receive more than a million letters this year and those that include a return address will receive a reply. Letters are addressed to Santa Claus, c/o North Pole, Canada. And the postal code: H0H 0H0.

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