

## Dutch ice race moves to Ottawa

The ice race that became legend by the story of Hans Brinker and his silver skates will be transported across the Atlantic to Ottawa next February as part of the capital's Winterlude festival.

And with it, over 700 Dutch citizens will come to the area to make sure the race does not lose any of its European traditions.

Through the years, the tale of the poor little Dutch boy who strapped on his wooden skates and struggled to victory in the 200-kilometre 11 cities tour in the Netherlands has remained a favourite of children throughout the world.

In the Netherlands, the race was held on the canals and took skaters through 11 cities in the northern province of Friesland. Under a new name — The International Race of 11 Cities — participants in the speedskating event at Winterlude will cover the 200 kilometres by making four return trips on the Ottawa River between Ottawa and Cumberland, Ontario.

The race has been held in the Netherlands since the early 1800s, but stopped in 1963 when ice conditions deteriorated.

"The Netherlands are no longer suitable. The ice is not strong enough," explained Marnix Van Aerssen, a Netherlands Embassy official. "It has to do with more and more factories throwing out hot waste water into the canals. The temperature in the canals rises, and the ice doesn't get thick enough."

The event was revived in 1973 and held in Norway and Finland, but organizers decided to move it to Canada.

More than 250 people in the Netherlands have already paid for participation in the race, and hundreds of people are expected to follow them, according to Mr. Van Aerssen.

"I think you'll see and hear the Dutch language all over the place."

Skating on the canals is a national activity in the Netherlands, and this race has the same emotional impact on the Dutch as the Stanley Cup playoffs have for Canadians.

"It is one of our traditions, it's a race that people get very excited about. If it were still in the Netherlands, at the finish there probably would be 100 000 people on the ice, and the winner would be hailed as a hero."

Winterlude, the National Capital's ten-day winter celebration, runs from February 3 to 12.

## News briefs

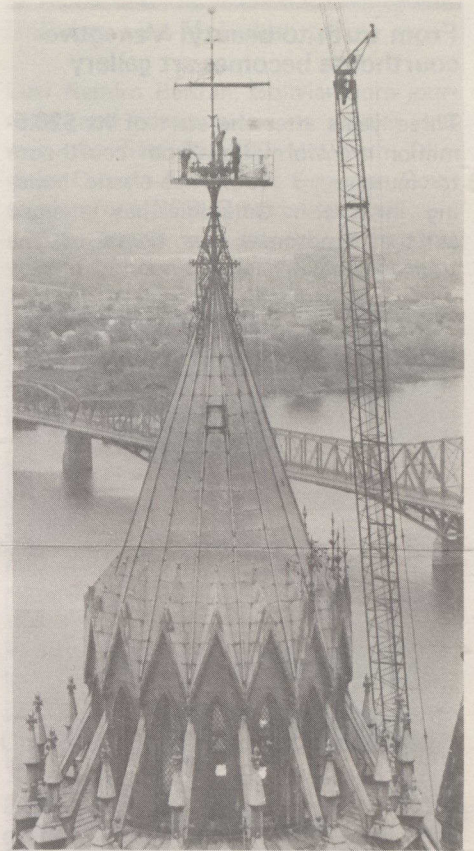
**Connaught Laboratories Ltd.** of Toronto and **Integrated Genetics Inc.** of Framingham, Massachusetts, have agreed on the development of a vaccine for hepatitis B. The hepatitis B virus invades and prevents the normal function of liver cells. Connaught Laboratories Ltd., a unit of Canada Development Corp. of Vancouver, British Columbia will pay Integrated Genetics for the rights to technology developed by Integrated Genetics for mass production of hepatitis B surface antigen, a major component of the virus that can be used to produce a vaccine to immunize against potential infection. Once vaccine development is completed, Connaught Laboratories Ltd. will market the vaccine in North and South America.

**Novatel Communications Ltd.**, a joint venture of Nova Corp. of Calgary and Alberta Government Telephones, has announced it will build a \$10-million plant for the assembly of cellular radio systems and related telephone receivers in Lethbridge, Alberta. The 19 500-square-metre operation is scheduled for completion next fall.

**Alcan Aluminium Ltd.** announced recently that it has acquired Reynolds Aluminium (Thailand) Co., a Thai maker of aluminum sheet and foil, from Reynolds International Inc. and the Boonsoong family of Thailand. The Thai company operates a plant in Bangkok with a capacity of 11 500 tonnes of aluminum sheet a year and 2 000 tonnes of foil. The company's name will be changed to Alcan Siam Ltd. Alcan also owns Alcan Thai Co., a maker of aluminum extrusions.

**Six Type 1100** light icebreakers for the Canadian Coast Guard and three fisheries protection craft have been ordered from ship-builders across the country. The ice-breakers are Arctic Class 2 ships, capable of breaking ice two feet thick without backing or ramming. Each is equipped to carry a helicopter, 44 crew and six passengers, and will have a range of 6 500 nautical miles at 15 knots. The three fisheries vessels are a 72-metre patrol craft, a 25-metre coastal workboat, and a prototype 17-metre glass fibre class. The total federal order has a value of \$340 million.

**ATS Exploration Ltd.** has been formed to explore for oil on lands held by Atco, Texaco and the federal government. ATS plans to invest up to \$250



Workmen in a suspended cage had an excellent view as they painted the weather-vane atop the Parliamentary Library in Ottawa. The cage was manoeuvred into position by a crane with an 80-metre boom.

million in the next five years, in the Norman Wells area of the Northwest Territories, and on the Scotian Shelf, the Grand Banks and in the Newfoundland Basin. Partners are Atco Ltd. of Calgary, Sun Life Assurance of Toronto and Texaco Canada, Toronto. The agreement calls for four commitment wells with options to drill up to seven additional wells.

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