

## Two Canadian innovators receive awards

The 1984 Ernest C. Manning Awards for innovation were recently presented in Calgary, Alberta to Vancouver businessman Lorne Whitehead, who invented an improved lighting system, and Diane Dupuy of Hamilton, who worked with retarded adults to create the Famous People Players theatre group. The awards are presented annually by the foundation, named after retired Senator Ernest Manning, premier of Alberta from 1943 to 1968.

### Top award

Lorne Whitehead, 29, president of TIR Systems Limited, received the \$75 000 principal award given by the Ernest C. Manning Foundation to a Canadian who "has shown outstanding talent in conceiving and developing new concepts, processes or products of potential widespread benefit to Canada".

Mr. Whitehead was chosen from among 78 nominees from eight provinces for inventing and developing a prism light guide system that can supply light to office buildings or other large areas from a single source.

Now marketed by Mr. Whitehead's company as the light pipe, the system "provides major cost savings in system maintenance, energy conservation through reduced heat production, enhanced safety through reduction or elimination of explosion hazard, and enhanced beauty through its ability to change light colour at the central source and transmit that colour anywhere within a structure," the foundation said.

Mr. Whitehead conceived the idea for the system years ago when he was studying in a poorly lit room at university.

The prism light guide he invented is basically a square pipe molded from acrylic plastic. Because of the shape of the pipe's surface, its walls act as mirrors so that light that enters the pipe at one end is guided down its length by reflection. The principle that makes it work, known as total internal reflection, is the same one involved in fibre optics.

The light pipe, which resembles a fluorescent lighting fixture, can use either ordinary light bulbs or sunlight as a source. It reduces the number of bulbs needed to light an area and can be used in areas where it would be difficult to change light bulbs. (See also *Canada Weekly*, February 15, 1984.)

### Award of merit

Diane Dupuy, 35, of Hamilton, Ontario, was named the first winner of the foundation's \$25 000 Award of Merit for Canadians "who have developed a unique idea or concept without association with a professional laboratory or research facility".

In 1974, Mrs. Dupuy founded Famous People Players, a professional theatre group that includes ten retarded adults. Since then, the group has given hundreds of performances in major cities throughout Canada and the United States. Presenting "black-light theatre," where the performers are not seen by the audience as they operate various props, including life-size representations of famous people, the group has toured China and been the subject of the film *Special People* broadcast recently in North America by CBS.

Members of the theatre company, a

charitable organization financed by money from performances, private donations and government grants, earn about \$8 000 to \$9 000 a year.

The foundation cited Mrs. Dupuy "for her great talent, not just in developing the troupe professionally, but in proving that people with a mental handicap may achieve high levels of self-expression and accomplishment when their abilities are firmly led and encouraged".

## Skate champion retains title

Brian Orser of Orillia, Ontario, won the Skate Canada men's singles title at the annual international competition held in Victoria, British Columbia this year, and became the first person to win the title twice in a row.



Canapress

Brian Orser, first to win the Skate Canada men's title two years running.

In his suspensefully choreographed long program, skated to the scores from spy thrillers *Octopussy* and *Mickey Spillane*, Brian Orser easily outdistanced the other competitors. Despite a three-hour delay in the men's program that was caused when paint used to cover the hockey goal line at Memorial Arena came through a soft spot in the ice, the silver medalist at both the 1984 Olympics and world championships, dazzled the sell-out audience of 4 500 in a program that included three triple jumps.

In the pairs competition Cynthia Coull of Greenfield Park, Quebec and Mark Rowsom of Chatham, Ontario, and Katherina Matousek and Lloyd Eisler of Seaforth, Ontario, were second and third respectively behind Elena Bechke and Valery Kornienko of the USSR.

Cynthia Coull and Charlene Wong of Pierrefonds, Quebec, finished eighth and tenth respectively in the women's singles event won by Japan's Midori Ito.

## Newspaper publisher honoured on stamp

Canada Post has issued a new domestic-rate stamp honouring the late Trefflé Berthiaume, the long-time editor and publisher of Montreal's French-language daily newspaper *La Presse*.

The newspaper, now celebrating its centennial, was founded in 1884 by W.E. Blumhart. It was taken over by Mr. Berthiaume when it was near bankruptcy and he guided its destiny to a point where it came to be recognized as the largest French-language daily newspaper in America. Under Mr. Berthiaume's management, the newspaper flourished almost immediately, attracting new advertisers and readers with its new policy of featuring "unbiased reporting of the news".

A typographer by trade, Mr. Berthiaume had founded his own printing plant in 1880 and started publishing a weekly newspaper, *Le Monde Illustré*, in Montreal.

Mr. Berthiaume died in 1915 at 66 years of age.

The stamp design, by Montreal artist Pierre-Yves Pelletier, is based on a photograph of Mr. Berthiaume. The stamp was printed in four-colour lithography.

