

the building, estimated at \$117,000, and an additional \$2,000 for each new job created — probably 32.

Mr. Fred Fassbender, President of Nortrac, says that the vehicle is “really a half-ton pickup truck for over-snow use” and that “there is nothing like it in operation”.

The machine, which is designed for industrial use, weighs 1,000 pounds, can carry two men and an additional 500 pounds. It may be purchased with an enclosed cab. The two-cylinder engine develops 4,500 rpm. About 140 vehicles will be made during the first year, increasing to a maximum of 800.

## BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Canada's birth rate in 1970 reached the lowest level ever recorded — 17.4 live births in 1,000 population. It had declined steadily since 1954, when it was 28.5 till it reached 17.6 in 1968, and it maintained that level through 1969.

Provincial birth rates in 1970 varied from 15.3 in Quebec to 24.2 in Newfoundland, but these were exceeded by the Yukon (28.2) and the Northwest Territories (40.5).

The actual number of births edged up to 371,988 in 1970 from 369,647 in 1969, but was still 100,000 fewer than in 1959 (479,275).

## DEATHS

Canada's record low death rate, of 7.3 in 1,000 population, established in 1969, continued through 1970. Provincial rates in 1970 varied from 6.3 in Alberta to 9.2 in Prince Edward Island.

Actually 155,961 Canadian residents died in 1970, compared to 154,477 a year earlier, with increases in all provinces except Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

## CAUSES

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system caused 49.6 per cent of the deaths in 1970 (77,343), cancer caused 19.5 per cent (30,483) and accidents 7.6 per cent (11,378). These three have been the leading causes of death since 1951, and their relative importance changed little through 1969 and 1970.

Deaths from motor-vehicle accidents decreased to 5,312 in 1970 from 5,696 in 1969, while those from falls edged down to 1,614 from 1,651 and drownings to 1,173 from 1,186. Those from poisonings increased to 720 from 642, and from fire to 634 from 626.

Suicides increased to 2,413 in 1970 from 2,291 a year earlier, raising the rate in 1,000 population to 11.3 from 10.9. Homicides also increased to 421 from 375, bringing the rate up to 2.0 from 1.8.

Tuberculosis deaths increased by 1, to 527 from 526.

The deaths of 7,001 infants (under one-year-old) in 1970 brought the rate in 1,000 live births to a low record of 18.8 compared to 19.3 in 1969. In the provinces infant death-rates in 1970 ranged from 16.9 in Ontario and British Columbia to 22.4 in Saskatchewan.

## RMC TO BE MODERNIZED

The construction of the first phase of a new science and engineering complex at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario, has received the approval of the Federal Government, and work is to begin next autumn. The project, which will cost an estimated \$5,475,000, will replace antiquated facilities at the 95-year old college.

Plans are now at the design stage. The contract, which is yet to be awarded, is expected to create about 350 man-years of employment.

Two units of a five-part structure will be built in the first phase; the remaining three are planned for some time in the future. Each “module” will occupy about 42,000 square feet of space.

The need to replace or modernize buildings at RMC has been recognized by the Federal Government since a special committee of the House of Commons established in 1964, recommended replacement of the older college buildings.

The cost includes the preliminary design of the complete, five-unit science and engineering complex, and the final design and construction of the first two modules.

Officials explain that the “modular”, or repetitive-grid, type of construction best provides for flexibility, consolidation of departments, and grouping of functions.

Some existing structures will be demolished to make way for the new buildings, with departments carrying on in temporary accommodation in the meantime.

The engineering division consists of civil, mechanical, electrical and chemical engineering, along with engineering physics and engineering and management. The science division includes the departments of physics and mathematics.

RMC, with a student body of about 500, is the oldest of three military colleges training officer cadets for the Canadian Armed Forces. It grants degrees in arts, science and engineering, and also has a small graduate school.

The two other military colleges are Royal Roads at Esquimalt, British Columbia, and Collège Militaire Royale de St. Jean, Quebec.