

# Canada Weekly

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## Year-end review of transportation in Canada

An extensive bilateral air agreement with the United States, the start of what is said to be the world's first short take-off and landing (STOL) service, Canada's intent to restrict its coasting trade to Canadian-flag vessels, a series of federal-provincial highway programs and new initiatives in safety were highlights in Canadian transportation during 1974.

Canada and the U.S. last year culminated four years of negotiations with the signing of an agreement establishing 46 new air routes for the two countries. Also negotiated were a new air charter agreement and a preclearance agreement, to make the package the largest in the history of international civil aviation.

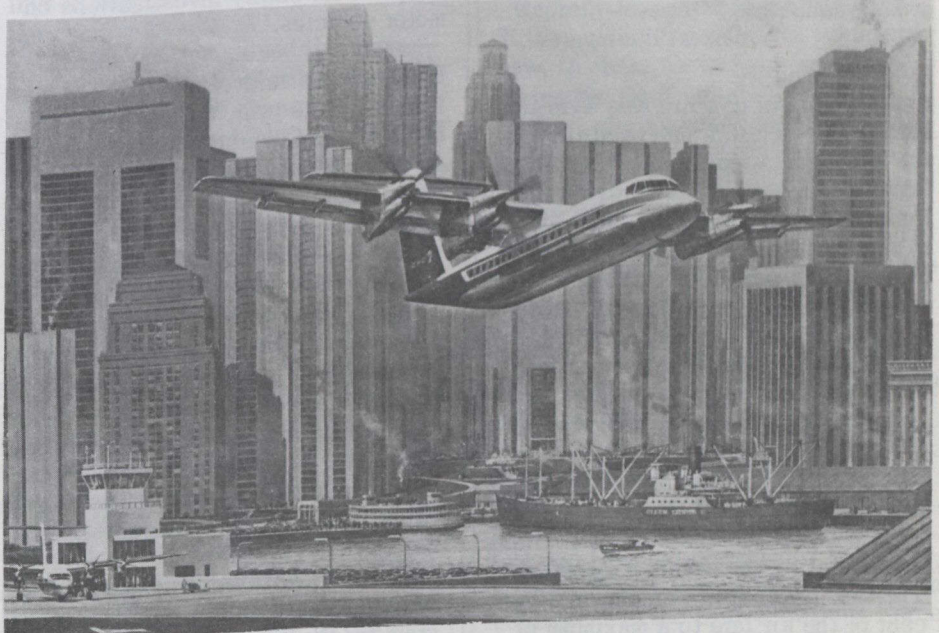
In shipping, the Ministry of Transport announced in May that Canada would withdraw from certain articles of the British Commonwealth Merchant Shipping Agreement, and gave other member countries 12 months notice of intent.

The withdrawal is designed to reserve the coasting trade of Canada for Canadian-flag ships, although there will be some exceptions, and "grandfather rights" will be extended for five years to Commonwealth ships already in the coasting trade.

### Roads and rail

Extensive federal-provincial highway programs were also begun in 1974 to mark the beginning of a \$78.5-million series of programs to strengthen highways in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta over the next five years. The Western Northlands Road Agreement to upgrade road access to remote communities in the four western provinces was also started during the year.

In June, the Railway Relocation and Crossing Act was proclaimed. This Act is to facilitate the relocation of railway lines or rerouting of railway traffic in urban areas and to provide additional financial assistance for



One of the highlights of transportation in Canada last year was the inauguration of an experimental STOL service between Montreal and Ottawa (about 100 miles or 160 km).

The DHC-7, which carries 49 passengers, causes minimal noise and is expected to ease congestion and soaring costs of conventional air services.