

Deputy Ministers switch jobs

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has assigned new positions to some senior public servants effective February 1.

Thomas Shoyama moved from the position of Deputy Minister of Finance to the job of special adviser to the Prime Minister on constitutional affairs.

William Hood, now Associate Deputy Minister of Finance, replaces Mr. Shoyama.

Marshall Cohen, former Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, has become Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, replacing Gordon Osbaldeston, who has been sent to the new Board of Economic Development Ministers. Mr. Cohen is replaced by Ian Stewart, now economic adviser to the Privy Council.

William Teron, now in Urban Affairs, will return to private life, although he will continue in his part-time job as chairman of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation board of directors.

It is the Prime Minister's prerogative to fill the top positions in the Public Service with persons of his choice.

Adventurous Canadians help commemorate Drake's voyage

Operation Drake, a two-year scientific expedition to commemorate Sir Francis Drake's voyage around the world 400 years ago, recently recruited zealous young explorers to build an airstrip in the Panamanian jungle, excavate a 280-year-old settlement site and study treetop wildlife from an aerial walkway.

According to *The Globe and Mail*, a new group — students from Canada, Britain, the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Iceland and France — will try to locate the sunken French pirate ship, the *Maurepas*, observe jungle vegetation and study people's resistance to disease. One well-covered group will stalk the Simulium black fly, which causes blindness and is thought to live in the swamps of Panama's interior. There is no known protection against the fly.

The 25 Canadians taking part in the expedition were chosen from more than 400 applicants. They were screened by the Outward Bound organization, which asked them two questions:

- What adventure experience have you had?

- In what community projects have you participated?

The candidates provided three references.

Rigorous tests

The expedition was organized by the Scientific Exploration Society, a group of 400 explorers and scientists in London, England. Each country involved in the project used its own form of evaluation. In Britain, applicants were given a sack and told to measure its contents. Inside was a six-foot python.

The 70 Canadian finalists were given a pail of water and told to swing across a pit with it, climb barriers with it, and go through swamps with it. The pail contained their water for that night.

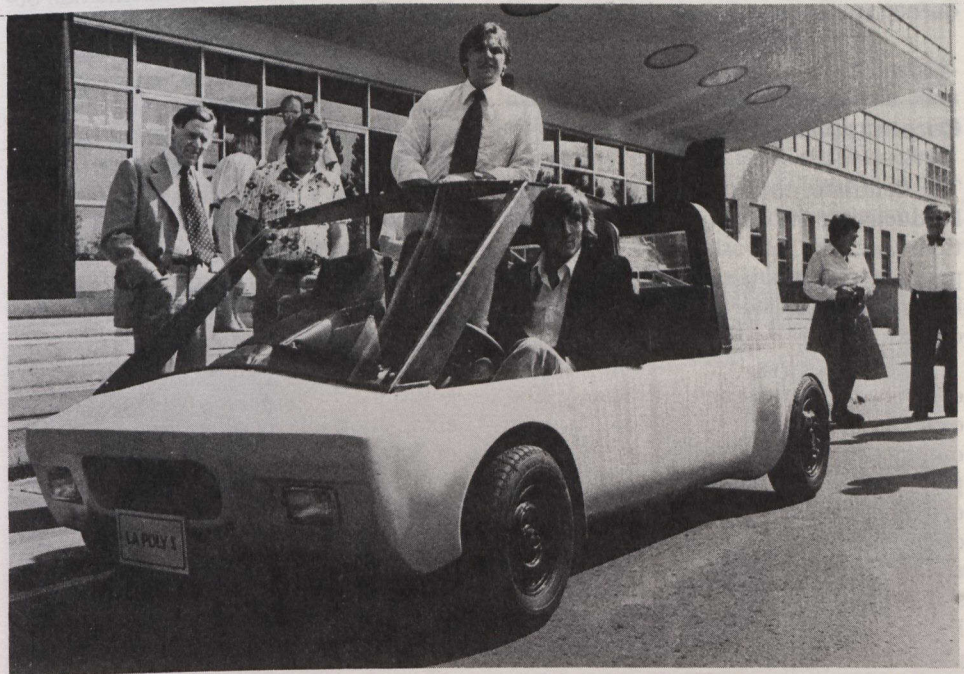
They were tested on compass reading and first aid, told to give impromptu speeches on Canadian subjects (including national unity) and made to cross bridges on the underside.

"They were all terrific people, but we had to make sure we were getting the very best," said a Canadian co-ordinator, Peter Jarvis.

The students, who reached Panama in a square-rigged 150-ton brigantine commissioned for the tour, have joined Operation Drake for three months. The only young explorer to be accepted for a second three-month assignment is 20-year-old University of Toronto social science student, Barbara Shopland. Undaunted by ravenous sandflies and scorching sun, the five-foot-four-inch adventurer said of her experience, "It's another challenge. I'm always going after them."

When the second phase of Operation Drake ends in mid-April, the expedition will move on to the Galapagos Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Sulawesi (Celebes) in Indonesia, the Seychelles Islands, and the Red Sea, returning to Plymouth, England, late in 1980.

No rust, little gas — students work toward dream car



Poly 1, (above), a small car developed for city driving by Montreal Polytechnic School students Lionel Taranu (standing) and Michel Kaine (at the wheel), is inexpensive, consumes little fuel, is rust resistant and compact. The car can reach speeds of 90 km/hr and can accelerate from 0 to 80 km/hr in five seconds. "It is too early to think of marketing it," the school's director of research said, "although in theory there is nothing to prevent us from building more cars right now. The Polytechnic will continue working on its prototype, which will serve as the basis for practical experiments by several groups of students, in particular a group specializing in plastics. We will also be running extensive tests on the vehicle's safety factors...."