

New train service begins between Toronto-New York

Via Rail Canada Incorporated of Montreal and Amtrak (the U.S. National Railroad Corporation) recently began a through train service between Toronto and New York City.

Via Rail is supported by the Canadian government, while Amtrak is funded by the United States government.

The Maple Leaf service is considered to be the first co-operative venture of its kind between the two countries. The inauguration of the service on April 27 also marked the return of a Toronto-New York passenger train service after an absence of almost ten years.

The Maple Leaf train leaves Toronto's Union Station in Toronto at 9:05 a.m. and arrives in Niagara Falls, New York about 11:45. After passing through Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Rome, Utica, Amsterdam, Schenectady, Albany, Hudson, Rhinecliff, Poughkeepsie and Croton, the train pulls into New York (Grand Central Station) at about 8:50 p.m.

Travellers can board the train from any

point on the circle route, which will now link Toronto, New York, Montreal and back to Toronto by way of Via Rail. Amtrak already operates a daily passenger Montreal-New York service. U.S. citizens are expected to make the greatest use of the train as a holiday vehicle for \$118 circle fare by way of Montreal or Toronto during the summer holiday months.

The new train is being operated and staffed by Via Rail personnel in Canada and run over Canadian tracks as far as Niagara Falls, Ontario. Crews are being changed before the Maple Leaf crosses the border.

The Maple Leaf is using Amtrak high-speed light-weight Amfleet cars placed in service between 1975 and 1977. The train is offering 180 seats a day.

Via Rail is expected to receive the first of its new LRC (light, rapid, comfortable) high-speed intercity trains next month and the first set will probably go into operation between Toronto and Montreal this autumn.

Public Archives records centre marks anniversary



The Public Archives of Canada recently celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of its first federal record centre in Ottawa.

Jack Pickersgill, former Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, received a key to the centre in Ottawa marking the occasion. Mr. Pickersgill first opened the centre in April 1956. Other centres have since been established in Halifax, Mont-

real, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver.

Only about 5 per cent of all federal government records are retained for their historical value. The rest are disposed of by the federal record centres, saving the taxpayer approximately \$5 million a year. The centres provide safe and economical storage facilities for inactive federal government records.

Podborski ranked first

Steve Podborski of Toronto, who lost the 1980 men's World Cup downhill championship in the last race of the season, has been ranked the top downhill in the world by the Federation Internationale de Ski.

Podborski lost the downhill title to Austria's Harti Weirather in the last race of the season at Aspen, Colorado, by fractions of a second, but had 120-115 in the points standing. Racers count their five best races in a season. Weirather was able to count three firsts and two seconds; Podborski also had three firsts but could garner only one second-place finish and a third. Podborski replaces Austria's Peter Mueller as the No. 1 ranked downhill.

World's biggest book mart

Some book lovers, confronted by the delicious prospect of browsing for more than 27 kilometres, regard it as a dream come true. Others consider it a nightmare, according to the *Canadian Press*.

But love it or loath it, the World's Biggest Bookstore, has added a new dimension to the book-selling industry in Toronto.

The store, a cavernous literary warehouse that sprawls for more than a city block downtown is the idea of Jack Cole, the man who built the Coles Book Stores Limited chain.

Largest floor space

It occupies a world-record 6,500 square metres (70,000 square feet) on two floors of a converted bowling alley, and has 1.5 million books spread over 27 kilometres of shelves and display tables.

While the extent of the inventory may not be a world record, Cole says the store ranks in the top five in the world in the number of books and titles.

It contains such other attractions as the largest collection of Penguin books in North America and a special section which will carry the work of new Canadian authors regardless of whether they sell.

The vast store is best described as a book supermarket. On an electronic map posted just inside the main entrance, customers press a button for the section they wish to reach and an illuminated path shows them the quickest route.