

TV service uses new technique

A Canadian communications company is using a different kind of broadcasting technique to provide French-language programming to viewers in British Columbia.

The new service provided by Canadian Satellite Communications Incorporated of Montreal will be the second French-language one in the province; the other is provided by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The new network is expected to be the first in the world to broadcast commercial TV programming in what is known as the "scrambled mode" by means of satellite to remote areas of Canada. Only subscribers to the service will have the necessary equipment to unscramble the TV signal. The service will use Canada's *Anik A* satellite to transmit programs.

Jack Lina, director general of Canadian Satellite Communications said the company's main function is to sell cheaply TV and radio programming using the satellite system. At present there are 45 applicants seeking Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) licences to serve 252 B.C. communities with a potential of 30,800 subscribers.

Applications being processed by the CRTC are for communities scattered across British Columbia. They include Alert Bay, Ashcroft, Bouchie Lake, Burns Lake, Clearwater, Canal Flats, Fort St. James, Granisle, Hixon, Hudson's Hope, Keremeos, Kitsault, Lac La Hache, Lovell Cove, Oyama, Pemberton, Port McNeil, Radium, Sointula, Talkwa, Vanderhoof and Wyndell.

Canada's domestic letter-rate "A" stamp

The Canadian Post Office has issued a domestic letter-rate stamp with the letter A instead of the traditional denomination shown in Arabic numerals for the first time in its history.

The "A" stamp, designed by Raymond Bellemare of Montreal, features the Canadian maple leaf and is printed in one colour, Canada's official red.

Final approval of the value of the stamp had been delayed until late in December and the desired date of its issue did not allow enough time to print, distribute and have ready for sale stamps bearing the correct numerical value. As a result the stamp was designed with the letter A allowing the stamp to be available in postal outlets for immediate use when the new rate was announced. The value of the stamp is equal to 30 cents, which became effective on January 1, 1982. The "A" stamp may be used for postage within Canada only, and not on mail to other countries because of conventions of the Universal Postal Union, the international body that regulates the exchange of mail among member countries.



Former Nova Scotians invited home

The largest family reunion ever held in Canada is expected to bring over 50,000 people to Nova Scotia in 1982 to discuss their roots.

The entire province is expected to celebrate Nova Scotia's Old Home Summer Heritage Festival. The festival extends an invitation to all former Nova Scotians to come home in 1982 and experience the pride of being a native of that province.

The Old Home Summer Heritage Festival will comprise 200 festivals and events including family reunions, firemen's reunions and 12 months of partying.

The festival is slanted towards the province's multicultural heritage. Nova Scotia's roots are firmly planted in English, Irish, French, Indian, Scottish and German backgrounds, to name a few. The celebrations will carry an ethnic flavour — a salute to multiculturalism with events such as handicraft festivals, Scottish pipers, fiddlers and native Indian exhibitions filling the festival agenda.

Relatives throughout Canada

An estimated 86 per cent of Nova Scotia homes have first generation relatives living elsewhere in Canada. According to festival organizers, replies on RSVP cards mailed to former Nova Scotians are expected from more than one in every three families.

The department of tourism in Nova Scotia is asking for the names and addresses of people who have left the province from friends or relatives still residing in Nova Scotia. They expect to

receive a list of about 300,000 people.

Fifty thousand people are expected to reply to the invitation. In January, February and March newsletters will be sent to each person outlining special events, attractions, tours and general information on Nova Scotia.

Invited guests will receive a tour kit in April, complete with a personalized Captain's Log to record their vacation in the province.

The rest of the year has been dedicated to greeting, with as much flair and fun as possible, friends and relatives who have come home.

School for gifted science students opens in the fall

A new school for gifted science students is scheduled to open at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto next September.

The school will aim at producing graduates with the skill of scientists such as David Suzuki and Carl Sagan, who combine mastery of their professional fields with virtuosity in public communication.

Twenty students from Ontario will be chosen to sharpen their scientific and communications skills in a one-semester session.

The school will offer courses in advanced physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics at the Grade 13 level, as well as special training in the presentation of scientific ideas to non-scientists.

The school will depart from the traditional mode of science teaching, said John Fowles, chief education officer of the centre. It will stress practical scientific and communication studies, giving students access to the unusual laboratory and workshop facilities there.

The students will be called upon to devise ways to demonstrate science to the general public by means of exhibits, lectures and other media.

Though the science centre school will be unique in its emphasis on communication, there are elementary and secondary schools in Ontario and other provinces that run programs for gifted students. Programs in the humanities for the gifted exist at schools in Scarborough and North York.

In Aurora, Ontario, the Shad Valley Project at St. Andrew's College offers a four-week summer science program for outstanding students from private and public schools across Canada.