

Rideau Canal special anniversary

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strategy, in commercial enterprises, or in efficient public transport.

New life for the Rideau

Meanwhile, signs of a new life for the Rideau Canal had begun to appear about the turn of the century. Summer hotels and facilities for recreational boating had begun to spring up along the lakes and the picturesque stretches of calm water. With the completion of the Brockville and Westport Railway in 1888, a new — and this time friendly — invasion from the United States was launched in the form of increasing numbers of American tourists.

After the Second World War the Rideau again attracted public interest, this time as a major historical tourist attraction. In the summer, all types of pleasure boats, from sleek yachts and luxurious cruisers, to rowboats and canoes, replace the steamers and barges of the nineteenth century. During the winter months in Ottawa, several miles of the canal, strung with coloured lights, become a fairyland for skaters.

With its transfer to Parks Canada in 1972, the Rideau Canal entered a new

The following poem, written by Catherine Ahearn, Ottawa's poet laureate, is a tribute to the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the Rideau Canal:

*From where the curtain of the Falls goes niagaring down,
From Hartwells to Clowes, from Poonamalie to Kingston Mills,
From Green Island's oval under the hooded arcs of Bytown's
Ten glinting bridges, to the Cataraqi between green cheeks of hills.*

*The Rideau Canal built a world with stone in hand
That canoemen had to master, its channels deemed impassable,
But iron-bound locks make water seem like land
And pass they did: schooners and canoes, steamboats with paddle*

*Wheels, Noah's Arks and runabouts, that locked upstream
And down according to the push and swing of crab and sluice
And valve and gate, that which is man-made, by Great Dream
Made, that signalled to all a peace, a truce.*

*By the tawny, bygone summer of eighteen hundred and thirty-two;
And this, the grace and favour of the grit-willed Colonel By
And the unsparing Iron Duke, undaunted by what risks might loom —
Erosion or storm, paper wars or warpaths taken by those who might defy —*

*This abiding legacy that binds and parts with timeless flow
This timeless city, from trodden limestone cliffs to the stone-arc
Of Hogs Back Dam: the Rideau Canal, that links in one flight, in one go
Like the flux of two peoples — two rivers, that come into one gleam like a spark.*

phase. Visitors can explore the past by taking advantage of the newly-developed program of interpretation.

Through a series of activities and events, participants can experience the 150 years of history these locks have seen. A visit to the blacksmith's forge at

Jones Falls, a look at the last steam-driven vessel to operate on the canal at Smiths Falls and a stroll through historic Merrickville are but a few of the events offered. Slide and film programs are presented regularly. Group tours and special programs are available on request.

News briefs

Canada served as host to the seven-member-nation energy committee of the organization for Co-operation for Development in Africa (CDA) meeting in Ottawa last month. Specialists in African programs and the energy sector from Belgium, France, West Germany, Britain, United States, Italy and Canada attended the two-day meeting. The meeting looked at ways in which two or more CDA member nations can pursue the most effective energy projects in co-operation with African countries in order to assist them to better cope with the acute energy crisis affecting them.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) has awarded research grants, scholarships and fellowships totalling approximately \$151.5 million to university professors, postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows for 1982-83 following its annual spring competition. As part of NSERC's continuing program for the training of highly qualified Canadian researchers in science and

engineering, the council offered 2 066 postgraduate scholarships, 168 postdoctoral fellowships and 108 science scholarships.

The Export Development Corporation has signed five financing agreements totalling \$3.5 million (Cdn.) to Israel, New Zealand and Peru. The agreements were signed with Bank Leumi Le-Israel B.M. and United Mizrahi Bank Limited of Israel, Corporacion Financiera de Derarrollo of Peru (two agreements) and Tasman Pulp and Paper Company Limited of New Zealand.

The federal and Nova Scotia governments recently signed an agreement on offshore oil and gas resource management and revenue sharing. The agreement is intended to achieve a number of objectives: increased energy security and economic prosperity; a pricing and fiscal regime which will encourage increased offshore exploration and development on an economic basis; protection of the environment and fishing industry and government control over the pace of offshore development.

The winner of the 1982 Grand Prix of Canada, to be held in Montreal, will receive a trophy named for Canadian driver Gilles Villeneuve, organizers of the Formula One race have announced. Villeneuve was killed last month in a crash during a qualifying run for the Belgian Grand Prix. The Canadian driver won the Grand Prix race in Montreal in 1978.

Canada Weekly is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.

Canada

ISSN 0384-2312