

Canada's transit (Continued from P. 4)

Canada's own Transportation Development Centre, located in Montreal. It involves all modes of transportation and all stages of the innovative cycle — from concept definition to prototype design; from development and pre-production demonstration to deployment in revenue service.

In its innovative urban transit technology research, the centre has been studying the development of a taxi vehicle that would overcome the shortcomings of regular automobiles in use as taxis; prototype wheelchair restraint systems for vans; microprocessor-controlled destination signs for buses. The centre has also been involved in the study of tracked levitation technology, the magnetically levitated (Maglev) transportation systems.

Private industry itself continues to innovate, carrying out its own research and development in many aspects of urban transit. For example, the area of control and communications systems is a high priority among Canadian companies and all available indications suggest that

Canada has a lead in the development of certain urban transportation control systems.

Canadian technology is not confined to products alone. Consulting engineers and construction companies from Canada are also involved in the development of urban transit systems not only in their own country but in all parts of the world.

Regardless of the mass transit requirements — subway equipment, intermediate capacity transit systems and equipment, buses or vehicle monitoring and control systems — Canada has the capability.

This capability is offered to international customers with the assurance that emphasis will be placed on safety, controlled capital and operating costs, efficient energy utilization, passenger comfort and environmental considerations.

(From Canada Courier, international edition, 1982. A catalogue on Canadian urban transit equipment and supplies, First Choice Canada — Urban Solutions, is available from the trade offices located in the nearest Canadian embassy, high commission or consulate.)

News briefs

Gasoline and heating oil prices dropped about 1.6 cents a litre January 1, although they will go up again 60 days later on March 2. The price drop resulted from a January 1 cut in the federal Petroleum Compensation Charge, the tax now tacked on to oil produced by domestic wells and used to offset the higher price of synthetic and imported oil. The January-February cut works out to a saving of about \$1 a tank on a fill-up and about \$14 on a 900-litre tank of heating oil.

Gerry Sorensen, the first Canadian woman in 24 years to win the world downhill skiing championship, has been voted Canada's female athlete of the year. The 24-year-old from Kimberley, British Columbia, who won the title in February 1982, was a decisive winner in the year-end poll of sports writers and broadcasters conducted by *The Canadian Press*. The only previous Canadian to win the women's downhill title was Lucile Wheeler, who was also named athlete of the year when she accomplished the feat in 1958. The last Canadian world title in women's skiing was Kathy Kreiner's victory in the giant slalom at the 1976 Winter Olympics.



Renovations to make Rideau Hall accessible to the handicapped are tested as Governor General Edward and Lily Schreyer hosted guests who arrived in wheelchairs. Here Art Barrette, followed by the Schreyers, wheels out of the elevator which is connected to a new ground-floor ramp entrance.

Prime Minister Trudeau has invited the premiers, the heads of the two northern territories and native leaders to a constitutional conference to be held in Ottawa March 15-16. The conference is to focus on defining aboriginal rights but may also include discussion of other topics, such as Senate reform.

The federal government will increase its spending on Canada-wide reforestation programs to a minimum of \$130 million within five years. At present, approximately \$300 million a year is spent on reforestation and about \$50 million of that comes from the federal government. Environment Minister John Roberts told a meeting of the National Hardwood Lumber Association that forests should be farmed rather than mined and said that, to accomplish this, expenditures of \$650 million a year would have to be made by federal and provincial governments and industry during the next four or five years on reforestation programs.

DAF Indal Limited of Mississauga, Ontario has landed an \$82-million order for its helicopter recovery, assist and traverse (RAST) systems for the United States Navy. The order consists of a \$52-million contract for 18 RAST systems and a letter of intent for an additional 13 systems valued at more than \$30 million. The systems will be procured by the Canadian Commercial Corporation and will be sold to the US Navy under the US-Canada Defence Production Sharing Arrangement.

Jacques Thibault of Quebec City won all four men's sprint events at the season-opener international speed skating meet in Inzell, West Germany, in December. Thibault won both the 500- and 1 000-metre sprints on the outdoor 400-metre oval, repeating his performance of the previous day to rank first in the ten-competitor men's sprint category.

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