Michener awards presented

The *Kingston Whig Standard* was named the winner of the 1979 Michener Award for meritorious public service at a recent dinner at Government House.

The newspaper, which was chosen from 26 entries, won for a series of articles on industrial fluoride poisoning at the Cornwall Island Indian Reserve located near Cornwall, Ontario.

It was the tenth annual presentation of the award which was initiated by former Governor-General Roland Michener during his tenure as governor general. For the first time, Governor-General Edward Schreyer and two of his predecessors, Mr. Michener and Jules Léger were present at Rideau Hall together.

The *Edmonton Journal* received honourable mention for a series of stories on procedures for handling disturbed and problem children in an Alberta government institution.

Citations of merit were awarded to: the *Windsor Star* for stories on the high rate of cancer deaths due to asbestos at the Bendix Automotive Company of Canada; the *Calgary Herald* for stories about police arrangements with a self-confessed criminal to make unauthorized entries to a house as part of a drug investigation; and the now-defunct *Calgary Herald* for a series on the economic squeeze on Canadian Armed Forces families because of small salary increases and subtantial increases in rents on government-owned housing.

Andor Andre Sima

The Governor General presents the Michener award to Kingston Whig Standard *staff:* (left to right) *Karl Polzer, Harvey Schecter, Governor-General Schreyer, Lily Schreyer, Shelagh Stanley, Sylvia Wright and Penny Stewart.*

Program supports office automation

Communications Minister Francis Fox announced a multi-million dollar government program aimed at capturing, by 1985, a significant share of the growing domestic and international markets for automated office communications equipment for the office of the future.

The federal program is designed to stimulate and co-ordinate Canada's high technology industry of small- to medium-electronic firms in making a place for themselves in this marketplace. The government has approved $12.5 million for the Department of Communications program.

The direct program expenditures will be complemented by additional expenditures through the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and through normal office equipment procurement during the life of the program.

In the first phase of the program, $2.5 million will be spent to develop office communications systems, plan field trials, and conduct technological, behavioural, social and economic research. This part of the program will begin immediately and last two years.

Phase two, which is dependent on the success of the first phase would fund development of electronic office equipment for field trials in government offices and further research and product development. This phase, which would begin in 1982, is expected to cost $10 million.

In announcing the federal program, Mr. Fox said he welcomed two announcements made recently by Canadian industry. Mitel Corporation and Systemhouse, both of Ottawa, are providing $300,000 to establish a chair of office automation studies at Carleton University in Ottawa. As well, 18 high technology companies, 17 of which are members of the Canadian Advanced Technology Association, are funding a study for a common approach to developing a Canadian automated office industry. CATA has also established a consultative committee with representatives from industry, who will advise on industrial strategy for office automation, and the committee's advisory services have been offered to government.

Computer forecasts future forests

A British Columbia researcher is putting together a computer program that will help foresters to manage forests to their best advantage.

The program being developed by Hamish Kimmins of the University of British Columbia, will simulate the repeated life cycles of a forest, tracing the crucial flow of nutrients between soil and tree, and air and water.

The program has already demonstrated that a forest can slip over the edge and too much management will diminish the harvest. To be added to the program are cost factors that will tell forest managers how much to invest in silviculture.

The computer model, called Forcyte, can be adapted to fit any planted forest. Users need only basic tree chemistry measurements and tree growth tables, which have already been compiled for most commercial stands. Then they can forecast forest trends for up to 500 years. What they see may be blurred by uncertainty, especially at the far limit, says Mr. Kimmins.