

A QUEBEC SVAPPAAARA BY 1975

Between now and 1975, a new town will be built on the shores of Lake Daviault in New Quebec. Mining of the iron-ore lode in Wright Mountain will be the town's central activity. Quebec Cartier Mining, which has invested some \$350 million, has revealed plans for the future town of Fermont, which will be able to accommodate 6,500 inhabitants.

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE

Designed along the lines of the town of Svappavaara in Swedish Lapland, Fermont will be adapted to its geographical location in the subarctic climate. Situated 500 miles to the north of Montreal near the Quebec-Labrador border, it will be built using the latest techniques in modern town planning. Its chief characteristics will be a southern exposure and a long, curved 2,200-foot building blocking out the cold north winds of winter. Ranging in height from three to five levels, this concrete "windbreak" will contain 350 houses, studios and apartments, a school, a business section, a swimming pool, a restaurant, a library and the town hall, all joined by enclosed and climate-controlled corridors.

In the shelter of the "windbreak" more than 600 homes will be constructed and, although 20 to 25 models will be available, no more than 50 homes of the same type will be built. The bedrooms will have a northern exposure, the family rooms, living rooms and dining rooms a southern exposure, specially designed windows providing them with maximum light. Winter outerwear will be left in a large hall and garages will be near the street, to cut down on snow-clearing. Other characteristics are heated fire hydrants and sidewalks on the north side only; the wind will blow the snow onto the south side where the sun will be able to melt it. Traditional cross-roads will be replaced with T-junctions, thus keeping chances of accidents to a minimum.

Fermont will be located in a region with cold, short summers (about three months), where in winter the temperature can drop to -45°F (-43°C) and lower, and as much as 150 to 200 inches of snow can fall annually.

CHANGES IN WAR ALLOWANCES

Three significant amendments to the War Veterans and Civilian War Allowances regulations were announced recently by Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Veterans Affairs.

The most far-reaching of the new regulations for recipients of War Veterans and Civilian War Allowances is the exemption, as income, of the recently announced cost-of-living increases of Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement. This amend-

ment will benefit some 46,500 veterans and dependants and represents an increase of income of \$2.70 a month for the single recipient or \$5.10 a month for the married recipient when both partners are drawing the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

The second amendment removes the four-month restriction that previously applied to full-time employment if earnings from such employment were to be considered as exempt income. A single recipient will now benefit by an exemption of \$800 on his earned income, regardless of the duration of his employment, and a married recipient will be entitled to an exemption of \$1,200. The result of this change will be that those who are able to take advantage of this provision could now have a total income, if single, of \$2,732 annually, or, if married, of \$4,452. These figures are based on the present annual income ceiling under the Act which are \$1,932 for a single recipient and \$3,252 for a married recipient.

The third amendment covers recipients of Old Age Security benefits who, but for these payments would be eligible for allowances under WVA and CWA legislation and who may wish to live outside Canada. By so doing they could lose their OAS benefits. This amendment now permits these people, before leaving Canada, to replace the income received through OAS with WVA and CWA allowances that can be paid outside Canada.

CANADA-U.S. CRITIC EXCHANGE

A \$5,000-grant to the Music Critics' Association was announced recently by the Canada Council to support an exchange of critics by Canada and the United States. The program, financed by equal grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington and the Canada Council, will provide for exchanges, lasting from one to three months, of music columnists in cities of comparable size. Three critics from each country will participate.

According to the Council's Associate Director, Robert Elie, the purpose of the program is to expose critics and the musical public to fresh situations and critical outlooks.

The Music Critics' Association, which is sponsoring the program, is an organization of professional music critics writing for newspapers and periodicals in all parts of Canada and the United States.

Each Canadian critic taking part in the exchange will handle the full range of critical activity of the host newspaper - reviews, interpretation, interviews, news stories and features. He will continue to receive this salary from his own paper, which will meanwhile have the services of an American critic. His funds for travel and expenses will come from the Canada Council grant.