

Low frequency radio transmitters monitor bullfrogs

Three Ontario scientists have implanted low frequency radio transmitters in six female and four male bullfrogs, hoping to learn why there has been a mysterious silence among bullfrogs in the province and just what is happening to the disappearing population.

In September, Jim Lovisek, along with Edward Crossman and John Minor of the Royal Ontario Museum's ichthyology and herpetology department implanted little transmitters, weighing between 5.5 and 6.5 grams — about 3 per cent of the frog's weight — just under the frogs' skin. A month earlier, they had inserted the first transmitter in a male bullfrog in ROM's Toronto laboratory.

"No one has ever implanted a transmitter in a frog before and it was a new technique. We wanted to make sure that it wouldn't kill the frogs and that the transmitters wouldn't cause radical changes in the bullfrog's behavior," said Mr. Lovisek.

That male bullfrog has been kept in Toronto to "see what long-term effects there'll be, if any", he said.

So far this winter the three scientists

have been up at Nogies Creek in Peterborough County eight times to "listen" to the bullfrogs, which are monitored by the individual frequencies.

They've found that the bullfrogs have stayed "relatively close to each other, about 700 metres apart. But I think it's surprising that they've changed locations in the cold water. They tend to go downstream. Maybe the current moved them. We don't know", said Mr. Lovisek.

In the first month, they lost track of three bullfrogs. "We're not sure if it was just a case of transmitter malfunction, or the bullfrogs moving beyond our range, or if something ate them," he said.

The "listening and watching" will continue into the late spring. "The bullfrogs become very active in April and May," he said. "But in the spring the females disappear. They're not seen. In fact, around the first of June you can see only males. Perhaps the females are hiding in some habitat, maybe they're hibernating longer. Maybe their radio transmitters will tell us what's happening."

Bell Canada centennial

Seminars for educators and teachers concerned about the problems of children with learning disabilities will be held in Ontario and Quebec this year, as a major project marking the one-hundredth anniversary of Bell Canada.

Bell Canada, which received its charter in 1880, is sponsoring the seminars which will be conducted by the Canadian Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (CACLD) and its provincial affiliates.

Bell Canada's support for the Learning Disabilities seminar program is based on the pressing need for teachers, educators and parents to obtain more information about these problems. About 10 per cent of the elementary and high school student population suffers from some sort of learning disability.

Close to 20,000 teachers and educators are expected to attend the sessions designed to improve their ability to identify and assist children with this problem. Eighteen leading Canadian specialists in learning disabilities have been enlisted to lead the seminars and public meetings.

More accolades for former skating champion Barbara Ann Scott



Photo Ideas, Inc.

Former Olympic and World Champion figure skater Barbara Ann Scott has been inducted into the United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA) Hall of Fame. The presentation was made by Joseph Serafine, USFSA's First Vice-President. She joins Montgomery "Bud" Wilson and Donald Jackson as the only Canadians to be elected to the Hall of Fame.

Downtown office church answer to workers' prayer

Every Monday afternoon, Toronto office workers can skip lunch and attend church in a downtown office tower.

A 20-minute church service is offered at St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Chapel on Adelaide Street in the heart of Toronto's business centre.

Worshippers step from an elevator into the chapel's foyer where a large mural of Toronto's skyline is sandwiched by portraits of Jesus and St. Stephen.

The chapel has a low, suspended ceiling and fluorescent lights. The green upholstered office chairs and orange carpeting are familiar decor to the 300 who attend the four daily services each weekday.

"Mass is mass," said Jean Neal, a legal secretary. "It's very handy. You can't get in the door here during Lent."

The three-year-old chapel was an idea of Most Reverend Pearse Lacey, an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Toronto, and seven businessmen, who raised \$75,000 to set it up.