

Expo Info 24 hours a day



Since last summer, EXPO INFO phone lines have been providing information on all aspects of the 1986 World Exposition including employment, business opportunities, entertainment and general background. The service is provided 24 hours a day to allow people living in any time zone to phone at their convenience. The multilingual information staff is supported by a computer system that provides detailed information and initiates replies by mail. The number to call is (604) 660-EXPO.

News briefs

Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp and Barbados Minister for Labour, Social Security and Sport Delisle Bradshaw, recently signed a reciprocal agreement on social security between the two countries. The agreement will co-ordinate the operation of Canada's Old Age Security program and the Canada Pension Plan with the Barbadian program which provides old age, invalidity and survivors' benefits. As many as 500 people may become eligible for Canadian benefits as a result of the agreement. Canada has similar agreements in force with France, Greece, Italy, Jamaica, Portugal and the United States.

Teal Communications Inc. of Vancouver, British Columbia has developed a new communications productivity device, Around, that enables computer users to sign on to information services and electronic mail systems with one key-stroke. A directory allows them to look up the service they want and automatically make a connection. The software can check for electronic mail or collect information from a data base at preset times. Transmission of messages, spread-sheets and word processing files are possible.

Lavalin Bell Géomat Inc., a new company that will specialize in automated data management systems at national and international levels, has been formed in Montreal, Quebec by Bell Canada and Lavalin Inc. The new company will offer a wide range of services, covering installation, and all related aspects, of the information management systems necessary for automated network administration. Using advanced computer techniques, such as digital mapping and interactive graphics, the firm will create sophisticated management tools like land-related data bases.

Olivetti Canada Limited of Toronto is introducing an optical disc-based information retrieval system that can provide on-line storage for up to 20 million "page images." The Filenet Document Image Processor can store the exact images of documents, whether printed, typed, handwritten or drawn. The base system of 64 discs can provide minimum storage of 128 billion bytes. Each image can be fetched in less than 12 seconds.

Nova Corporation of Calgary, Alberta has announced that its international consulting arm has won a contract to help build a pipeline in northern China. Novacorp International Consulting will do design work on compressor controls, telecommunications and automation facilities for the line, which will carry 200 million cubic metres of gas a year from China's Zhongyan oilfield to a fertilizer plant in Hebei province.

IBM Canada Limited of Markham, Ontario, is testing a prototype information booth at its Toronto product centre in the Royal Bank Plaza. The booth, which looks like an arcade game, is aimed at "people who are intimidated by the high-tech atmosphere of a computer store," said Garnet Brace, its developer. Information on any of 36 topics that provide an overview of the company's products and the business problems, can be received by touching a list on a screen. Within a few seconds, a larger display screen shows a one-minute presentation on the topic.

The Export Development Corporation has announced the signing of a \$17.8-million (Cdn) multiple disbursements agreement loan to support sales by a number of Canadian exporters to N.Z. Forest Products Limited (NZFP) of New Zealand. The sales involve goods and services for the expansion and modernization of the company's Kinleith pulp production facility, a related sawmill and its Penrose wallboard mill. The exporters include Combustion-Engineering Superheater Limited of Ottawa, Ontario, H.A. Simons (International) Limited of Vancouver, British Columbia, Dorr Oliver Canada Limited of Orillia, Ontario, and Tuffline, a Division of Xomox Canada Limited of Downsview, Ontario.

A University of Toronto research team is planning to use the latest techniques of biotechnology to improve the yield, colour, shelf-life, flavour and nutrition of cultivated mushrooms. While commercial mushroom cultivation has become a multi-million-dollar industry, little has been done to improve mushroom strains, most of which were developed hundreds of years ago, said Paul Horgen, of the university's Botany Department. The university has received a \$20 000 grant from Campbell Soup Co. for research by Dr. Horgen and his colleague James Anderson. They will use cell fusion and recombinant DNA techniques to combine genetic attributes that don't cross strains naturally. Mushrooms more resistant to viruses that can devastate commercial crops could also be developed, said Dr. Horgen.

No footprints in the air



Canadian astronaut Marc Garneau receives help leaving his footprints on Calgary, Alberta's Steven Avenue Mall, where many other celebrities have left their impressions. Marc Garneau is currently on a speaking tour of more than 30 Canadian cities where he is telling his story as the first Canadian in space.

Canada Weekly is published by the Cultural and Public Information Bureau, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown will be provided on request to the editor, Carole Stelmack.

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

Canada

ISSN 0384-2312