

News briefs

Paul-Émile Cardinal Léger of Montreal recently received the fourteenth annual Man of the Year Peace Award granted by the Lester B. Pearson Peace Park to the Canadian citizen who, in the previous year, has made an outstanding contribution to world peace or Canadian unity. The nominees are selected by editors of Canadian newspapers and *Maclean's* magazine. Cardinal Léger was nominated by John G. Doherty, executive editor of the Hamilton *Spectator*, and Roger Lemelin, editor of *La Presse*.

The province of Manitoba recently opened a trade and tourism office in Mexico City. Economic Development and Tourism Minister J. Frank Johnston was on hand for the opening along with Canadian and Mexican government representatives. The two-person office is focusing on developing markets for Manitoba-made agricultural machinery and transportation equipment.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) has awarded a \$115,000 grant to a research team at the University of British Columbia for research and development work on light ducts in collaboration with Vortek Industries Limited. The team will undertake research and development on light ducts to carry large amounts of light from a high intensity source to a distant location. Light ducts are hollow pipes with specially shaped plastic walls that act as very efficient mirrors, thus causing the light entering the ducts to be transmitted to the exit with very little loss.

The Ontario government has committed at least \$80,000 for a one-year industry-government task force to study the social, industrial and economic impact of the "microelectronics revolution". The task force, chaired by Do-

nald Chisholm, executive vice-president, technology, of Montreal-based Northern Telecom Limited, will investigate research and development opportunities, and hardware and software sectors of the industry, application of the new technology and its impact on society.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) recently announced the conclusion of a supplier credit arrangement to support the sale of eight log skidders to Yugoslavia. The "Tree Farmer" log skidders, built by Hawker Siddeley Canada Ltd., forestry equipment division, Mississauga, were sold to Sipad Ro Export-Import, Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. Sipad Ro Export-Import is a division of Sipad, one of the largest work organizations in Yugoslavia.

Alberta Ventures Fund, a new company starting with capital of \$12 million, has been launched to provide venture capital for small- and medium-sized businesses in the province. The new company will be looking for investments primarily in oil and gas and new technology endeavours.

The Alberta government has announced a second loan worth \$110 million to Hydro-Quebec from the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. Provincial Treasurer Louis Hyndman said the new loan will have a term of 25 years at an annual interest rate of 11.25 per cent, "fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the province of Quebec". The first loan the fund provided to Hydro-Quebec last October was worth \$200 million.

Christian Dior ready-to-wear clothing, manufactured in Montreal by Irving Samuel, recently became available to Canadian consumers. Dresses retail from \$350 to \$600, coats and suits are in the \$500-price range and a long-sleeved jersey with a matching scarf is \$135 in silk and wool. The clothes are made from current Dior patterns in European fabrics; all the zippers are hand-set and finishing is also done by hand. The production was supervised by Gerard Penneroux, vice-president of Christian Dior and the firm's resident North American designer.

Hydro-Quebec will continue to expand rapidly despite Quebec's lower-than-expected rise of 2 per cent in electricity use last year, president Robert Boyd says. The provincially-owned utility expects annual increases of 7.5 per cent in the next five years, 6.7 per cent a year from 1985 to 1990 and 5.9 per cent in the early 1990s. Mr. Boyd said Quebec is

different because cheap hydro-electric power will keep natural gas — now making up just 6 per cent of Quebec's energy use — from increasing its share to much more than 20 per cent. Hydro power, on the other hand, will increase its current share of 23 per cent to more than 40 per cent in the 1990s.

Measures to accelerate the construction of rental housing in a number of markets where the vacancy rate is very low have been announced by Housing Minister Paul Cosgrove. Mr. Cosgrove said he has authorized Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to increase by 5,000, to a new level of 30,000, the number of dwelling units that may be built this year under National Housing Act social housing programs. The aim, he said, is to assist low to moderate-income families in certain designated areas who are unable to find suitable rental accommodation at a price they can afford. The Minister noted that Vancouver with a vacancy rate of 0.2 per cent and Toronto 1.1 per cent, are two areas where the shortage of rental accommodation is considered critical.

Alcan Aluminium Limited of Montreal and a Mexican company will undertake a joint feasibility study of a 45,000 metric-ton-a-year smelter in Mexico. The study will be paid for by Alcan and Conalum SA, a company jointly owned by three Mexican producers of aluminum cable.

Industrial corporations has profits totalling \$5.27 billion in the first quarter, up 30.7 per cent from \$4.03 billion a year earlier, Statistics Canada reports. It was the twelfth consecutive quarter that industrial corporation profits have shown a gain from a year earlier. First quarter sales of industrial corporations totalled \$104.75 billion, up 13.9 per cent from \$91.97 billion a year earlier.

The Netherlands is not known for its hockey prowess on the ice, but underwater its men's team is the undisputed world champion. The Dutch went undefeated in four games, beating Australia 6-4 in their final contest, to win the first world underwater hockey championship at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver. Canada won the women's title, beating the only other team entered, the United States, 13-10, 14-0. In the game of underwater hockey, participants equipped with fins, snorkels, diving masks, wooden sticks and strong lungs, form two six-man teams to battle on the bottom of a 25-metre pool, attempting to shoot a lead puck into the opponent's goal.

Canada Weekly is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

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

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.