

## Methanol fuel put to the test

The keys to Manitoba's first controlled methanol test fleet were handed over to Harvey Tarr, fleet administrator of the Manitoba Telephone System (MTS), by Ford Canada in a ceremony held July 27. The project, which was announced last year, is being carried out as a joint effort of the federal government and the Manitoba provincial government. The total expenditure is \$385 700. The fleet of ten Ford Escort cars, specially manufactured to use 90 per cent methanol rather than the more general gas-methanol mixture, will be used to test the commercial potential of methanol fuel over the next two years. The test, the first Canadian trial of 90 per cent methanol, will look at how well the cars start in cold weather, wear and tear on the engines and fuel consumption. Representing the test partners are (from left to right): Dave Mathers, Manitoba Research Council; Vern Bowerman, Manitoba Energy and Mines; Bernie James, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada; and Harvey Tarr, Manitoba Telephone System.



## News briefs

In a mid-August shuffle, Prime Minister Trudeau dropped five ministers from the Cabinet (former Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne, former Multiculturalism Minister Jim Fleming, former Sports Minister Ray Perrault, former Small Business Minister William Rompkey and former Minister of State for Finance Paul Cosgrove). Changes in the major portfolios are as follows: Jean-Luc Pepin becomes Minister of State for External Relations; André Ouellet becomes Minister of Labour; John Roberts becomes Minister of Employment and Immigration; Charles Lapointe becomes Minister of Supply and Services; Lloyd Axworthy becomes Transport Minister and Judy Erola moves to head up the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, retaining her former responsibility for the status of women.

At the end of a recent two-day visit to Kinshasa, former Minister of State for External Relations Charles Lapointe and Zaire's Secretary of State for International Co-operation signed eight memoranda of understanding concerning development aid projects totalling nearly \$25 million. In conjunction with the World Bank, Canada will contribute \$15 million to the Ituri livestock project to improve breeding techniques in northeastern Zaire and supply veterinary medicines. A second \$5.5-million agreement deals with food aid to be provided by Canada to Zaire next year. The other agreements involve support for the Counterpart Funds Secretariat, backing for the marketing of plant fibres in the Bandundu area, the creation

of a centre for the adaptation of wood energy technology and supplementary aid to Forescom (the Zairean wood processing company) and to the slaughterhouse at Bunia, in northeastern Zaire.

American Express Co. of New York has concluded a transaction to buy the first tower of the World Trade Centre from Olympia and York Developments Ltd. of Toronto. Olympia and York will build a 51-storey tower on the site which will be sold to American Express on completion, expected by mid-1985.

After years of declining popularity, the large family is regaining its appeal, according to a recent Gallup poll. In 1945, the polling firm found that 60 per cent of Canadians defined the ideal family as one with four or more children. For several decades, however, the large family waned in popular appeal, reaching its lowest point in 1982 when only 12 per cent of Canadians favoured four or more children and 63 per cent favoured two or less. But attitudes may be changing. In a survey of more than 1 000 adults last month, Gallup found that 17 per cent of respondents viewed the ideal number of children as four or more, while 56 per cent preferred two or less.

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan recently announced the first export of British Columbia grown cherries to Japan. Although the shipment was small — 576 45-kilogram cartons — Mr. Whelan said the event represented a breaking into a new world market that held future potential, particularly for the British Columbia fruit industry.

A discussion paper entitled *Environ-*

*ment Canada and the North* has been released by the federal Environment Department which sets out perceptions, roles and policies concerning the North and its development. It is intended to provide a basis for the territorial governments, other federal departments, interested organizations and citizens to review and comment on Environment Canada's northern policies and program activities.

Canadian music professor Joel Wapnick of Montreal's McGill University has been named the new Scrabble champion of North America. Wapnick, 37, won the third Scrabble championship among 32 finalists in the three-day tournament held recently in Chicago. Three other Canadians finished among the first eight. Tournament spokesmen estimate about 33 million people in Canada and the United States play the popular crossword board game.

*Canada Weekly* is published by the Public Affairs Branch, 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.

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

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

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

# Canada