

## Saskatchewan potash firm marks fifth anniversary

The Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, the second largest potash firm in the world, recently celebrated its fifth anniversary.

Potash is one of three key ingredients in fertilizer and the Saskatchewan government began to buy into the province's potash industry in 1976.

Last spring the government-owned corporation had a 1980 profit of \$167.5 million and for the first time paid a \$50-million dividend to the province's heritage fund.

The government turned to its energy fund — now called the heritage fund — for the money in an eventual \$418-million investment to take over three mines, buy a share in a fourth and to purchase the rights to potash reserves in eastern Saskatchewan.

The corporation bought the Cory mine from the Duval Corporation, a subsidiary of Pennzoil Corporation of Houston, for \$128.5 million in October 1976.

Five months later the corporation purchased the Rocanville mine from Sylvite of Canada, a subsidiary of Hudson Bay

Mining and Smelting Limited, for \$144 million.

The Alwinal mine at Lanigan became the government's third and final complete purchase — for \$76 million.

The corporation obtained a controlling interest in a fourth mine, the Allan division, when it acquired the 60 per cent interest held by Swift Canadian Company and U.S. Borax and Chemical Company.

### Expansion program

The corporation has embarked on a massive expansion program to achieve the stated goal of controlling 50 per cent of potash production in Saskatchewan.

In October 1980, it announced a \$600-million mine would be built at Bredenbury, in the same eastern field as the Rocanville mine. The corporation expects to spend \$2.5 billion by 1990 to expand production capacity to 11 million metric tons from 4.5 million in 1980.

Corporation sales to North America customers were down slightly in 1980 to 2.45 million metric tons but shipments to offshore customers were up 35.2 per cent to 1.96 million metric tons.

## Skaters take four medals

Canadian figure skaters took four medals at the Ennia Challenge Cup competition held recently in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini, Canadian senior champions, won the pairs gold medal with 1.4 points. Underhill of Oshawa, Ontario and Martini of Woodbridge, Ontario also took first place earlier this year in the pairs at the Skate America championships.

Tracey Wilson of Port Moody, British Columbia and Robert McCall of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia won the bronze medal in the dance competition. The Canadian dance pairs, skating in their first competition together, placed third with 4.2 points.

Dennis Coi of Vancouver placed third in the men's competition with 4.2 points, while Diane Ogibowski of Minnedosa, Manitoba earned the bronze in the women's singles.

## Blind get banking aids

Canada's largest bank, The Royal, has introduced a country-wide program to help visually impaired customers do business at its branches.

### Personal services

The program provides special cheque writing guides and tape-recorded summaries of the bank's personal services.

The cheque-writing guide — a cardboard folder into which any of the bank's four standard chequing and savings accounts cheques can be placed — has a series of window cutouts on the front where blind customers can write.

### Cassette tapes provided

The bank's range of facilities are explained on the 50-minute cassette tapes which also are handed out free of charge at any of the bank's branches.

The program was developed in consultation with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and represents another step in the bank's efforts to make its services more easily available to the handicapped.

It has also published a national directory of branches equipped to meet the needs of the physically disabled, and during the last year, modified more than 200 branches across the country to better serve wheelchair customers.

## University gets books on Celtic studies from Britain



British High Commissioner Lord Moran (centre), on behalf of the British Council presents a collection of books on Celtic studies to the Very Reverend Father Roger Guindon (right), rector of the University of Ottawa. With them is Yvon Richer (left), the university's chief librarian. The presentation was in support of the Chair of Celtic Studies at the University of Ottawa. The University of Ottawa Celtic Chair campaign consists of a group of Celtic Canadians (Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Breton) dedicated to establishing such a chair at the university.