

Quebec hosts Canada Winter Games

The 1983 Canada Winter Games will be held in Quebec, the province's Minister responsible for Youth, Sports and Recreation Claude Charron has announced.

The federal Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport Steve Paproski responded to the announcement saying, "The Canada Games were first held in 1967 in Quebec City, and their overwhelming success benefitted what was to become the largest amateur sport event in Canada. The Games have increased in popularity and scope ever since, and I am sure that Quebec will spare no effort to make the 1983 Canada Winter Games a memorable sports event."

The Quebec government has presented the Canada Games Council with bids from five Quebec municipalities interested in hosting the Games. The final choice of the Canada Games site will be made by the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport.

The Veitches of North America

Noel Coward's mother was one, and so was King Charles I's royal architect. A nun in Newfoundland is one, so is an Oklahoma cowboy in his Eighties. In Grand Junction, Colorado, and in Ottawa you could be buried by one, reports John Valorzi in *The Citizen*, August 1979.

What is it that could be so diversified?

A Veitch, of course. Or Veatch or Veech or Veach. After almost 700 years, a little distortion of a name is understandable. Recently, 146 persons with those names invaded the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa for the fourth annual family reunion of the Veitch Historical Society. Members of the society are North American descendants of a Norman cattleman named Lavache, who came to England with William the Conqueror in 1066, whose descendants settled in southern Scotland in 1296.

How it began

In the 700 years since Lavache's descendants settled the Scottish lowlands, the name has undergone numerous transformations; now there are two dozen similar surnames.

It was a Veitch from the Canary Islands branch of the family who bore Noel Coward. Samuel Vetch (without the

"i") was British governor of Nova Scotia.

Ottawa funeral director Eldon Vietch, 77, is partly responsible for making the reunion an international affair. It was his plan four years ago to get all the North American Vietchs together, but the germ of that idea goes back to a snapshot mailed to him by a friend studying in Scotland before the outbreak of the Second World War.

The photo showed a grocery store, in Peebles, near Edinburgh, bearing the name Veitch. Suspecting kinship, and conveniently stationed with the Canadian forces in England, Eldon went in search of the store and became friends with its owner, R. Bishop Vietch.

More than 30 years later, in 1975, Eldon received a letter from lawyer Wayne Veatch in Los Angeles, who, while searching for his own roots, had met R. Bishop Vietch in Peebles.

Wayne was already involved in a Veatch society in the United States, and with Eldon's help, that society expanded to Canada.

The society is divided into 18 regions, each headed by a co-ordinator. His task is to promote the society, solicit new members in the region and contribute to an annual newsletter.

The first convention in 1976 in Kansas City, Missouri, attracted 93 Veitchs, Veechs, Veatchs and Veachs, and the following year 173 attended in Tulsa, Okla-

homa. Last year's reunion in Lexington, Kentucky, attracted 222.

Although 300 were expected in Ottawa, the 1979 turnout was a disappointment, says Eldon, who attributes the low number to the U.S. gasoline shortage, and a car accident and a death in the family which prevented Australian and some American members of the society from attending.

Despite the smaller-than-normal gathering, those who attended said it was the best-ever reunion.

Quebec aid for foreign students

The Quebec government has announced that it is allocating \$1 million — including more than \$600,000 in bursaries — to help foreign students study in the province.

The other \$400,000 has been budgeted for a foreign student office attached to the education department's loans and bursaries service.

The new foreign student office will work in concert with student aid offices on campuses across the province, under the supervision of an inter-ministerial committee representing the departments of immigration, education and intergovernmental affairs.

The office would provide information on food, clothing and housing.

Inuit stamps

Canada Post will issue four new 17-cent stamps in its Inuit commemorative series on September 13, continuing the series begun in 1977 with the theme of hunting and in 1978 with the theme of travel.

Two of the new stamps will carry the theme of "shelter" and two the theme of "community" (people together). An Inuit

soapstone sculpture from Povungnituk depicting an igloo appears on one of the shelter stamps, while the companion stamp portrays a Cape Dorset Inuit print of a summer tent.

The community theme is conveyed on one stamp by two Repulse Bay soapstone sculptures illustrating the Inuit drum dance; the companion stamp uses a Holman Island print titled, *The Dance*.

