

# Canada Weekly

Ottawa  
Canada

Volume 13, No. 8  
February 20, 1985

**Toronto to build stadium with largest retractable roof, 1**

**Increased oil and gas drilling, 2**

**Biomass power plant for Guiana, 2**

**More trade urged with Mexico, 2**

**First Canadian telecommunications exhibition in India, 3**

**Climate improves for exports to Latin America, 4**

**Support for small business, 4**

**Continual motion promises more effective healing of joints, 5**

**"Air supermarket" expansion, 6**

**Practical baby wear, 6**

**Canadian cheese champions, 6**

**Computer whiz-kid, 6**

**News of the arts — painting, 7**

**News briefs, 8**

**Manotick mill still grinds grain to grist, 8**

## Toronto to build stadium with largest retractable roof

Ontario's first major sports complex with a retractable roof will be built on Canadian National Railway's land near the CN Tower in central Toronto.

The stadium, which will have what is believed to be the largest retractable roof in the world, is scheduled to be ready for the Toronto Blue Jays to open their 1988 American League baseball season.



*Model of domed stadium with largest retractable roof to be built next to the CN Tower in Toronto, Ontario.*

The new domed stadium will seat 50 000 to 55 000 for baseball and 55 000 to 60 000 for football. It will be 207 metres in diameter, with a clear height above the playing field of 60 metres and will cover a site area of 4.5 hectares.

To accommodate the conflicting demands of seating for football and baseball, some sections of seats may be built on radial tracks. The seats, which could rotate, could then be moved to meet the requirements of the games.

As well as being the home for the Toronto Blue Jays baseball club and the Toronto

Argonauts football club, the stadium will be used for conventions, trade shows, concerts and other commercial undertakings. Located on the edge of the city's downtown core, it will be connected to the newly opened Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

### Roof design studies

The design and specifications of the retractable roof have not as yet been determined. A three-member technical evaluation committee has spent a year studying 14 proposals for a retractable roof, and has come up with a short list of about five, said Daniel McAlister, vice-president of the Toronto architectural firm of Crang and Boake. The firm was selected to design the stadium itself.

It is expected that the design, or several designs, which meet the needs of football and baseball fans and players, can accommodate local weather conditions and can be adapted by the architects to fit the building practically and aesthetically, will be chosen within the next year.

The front-running proposals offer variations on a theme of maximum light, minimum shadow and quick operation in case of bad weather.

An air truss roof, which could be moved up and down a set of fixed posts like a canopy, has been designed by Crang and Boake, in conjunction with another Toronto firm and the French company, Aerazur Efa, renowned for their manufacture of airships.

This roof, made of fabric tubes filled with compressed air, is able to move up and down three 2.4-metre-wide masts to a maximum height of 152 metres.

DAF Indal Limited of Mississauga, Ontario has proposed a rotating roof — a fabric-covered aluminum frame — which can nest into itself, providing a maximum exposure of 50 per cent.

A third proposal, the Geiger fan roof, calls for a circular roof featuring sections that would rotate together like a folding paper fan.

The most successful retractable roof to date is that of the Pittsburgh Civic Arena, built in 1961, said Mr. McAlister. It covers



External Affairs  
Canada

Affaires extérieures  
Canada