

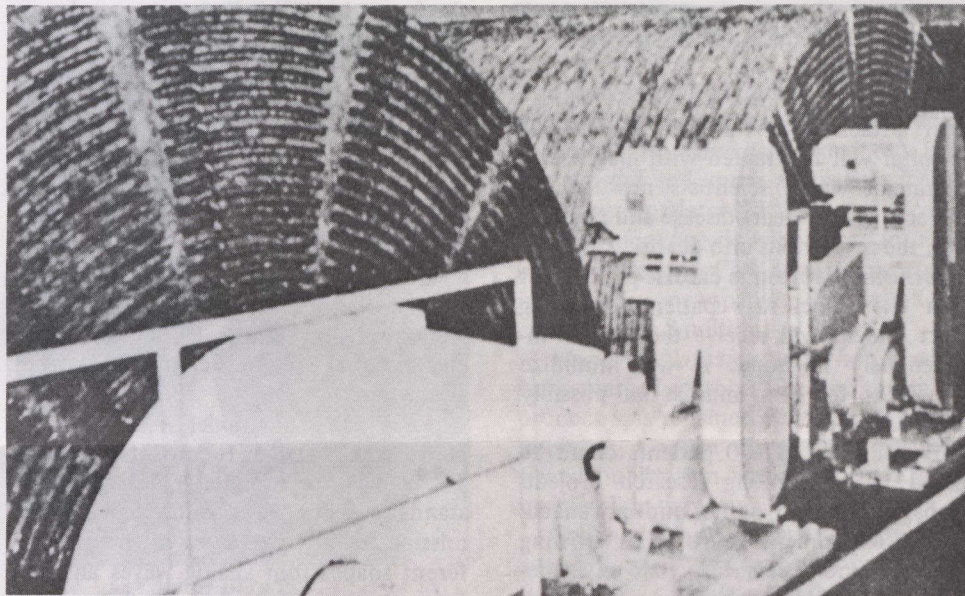
## Largest water pollution plant

The city of Guelph, Ontario, will build one of Canada's most modern waste water treatment installations making its water pollution control plant the first of its kind in Canada.

The new installation will help upgrade the quality of the plant effluent and increase the capacity of the plant, which, in turn, would provide service for an additional 4,800 dwelling units to accommodate the projected residential growth in Guelph over the next five years. Total cost of the project will be close to \$6 million.

The system involves assemblies of 3.6-metre (12 ft.) diameter corrugated polyethylene sheets mounted on shafts 7.6 metres (25 ft.) long. They look like huge drums. These rotating biological contactors, as they are called, are partially submerged in a concrete tank where they rotate slowly through the waste water.

As the unit rotates, aerobic biological growth develops quickly and profusely on the surfaces of the plastic sheets, providing an abundant microbe population



*Biological contactors rotate slowly through waste water, converting ammonia to nitrate.*

to treat the waste water. Rotation brings the growth into contact with the ammonia and continually aerates the water, converting the ammonia to nitrate.

Compared to traditional installations, this new process uses less energy, takes up less space, and requires less excavation. It

can, in fact, be constructed above ground, if the soil condition makes it impossible to excavate.

When the project is finished by the end of this year, it will be the largest installation of its kind in Canada and one of the largest in North America.

## Home care firm growing business venture in Western Canada

A Winnipeg woman's trouble finding someone reliable to watch her house while she was out of town has led to a growing business venture in Western Canada.

Lucie Marcq found her plants dead, her cat sick and her house in a mess when she returned from a trip after leaving her home in the care of someone who proved unreliable.

The next time she had to go out of town, Marcq decided she would hire a professional to look after things. She could not find a company that offered the service she needed so she settled for the secretary of a friend.

It was then she decided there was a need that was not being met and it was then that The Homesitters was born.

Now operating in Winnipeg and Calgary and with plans to open in Regina and Vancouver, Homesitters will water plants, feed cats, birds and fish, keep bird cages clean and change the kitty litter.

The company was started in Winnipeg in January 1976 and opened its second branch in Calgary about two years later.

Marcq said it was rough going at first because the idea was new and advertising expenses were high, but by last January the Winnipeg operation had started to show a profit.

In Winnipeg, Ruth Moir runs Homesitters out of her house.

Moir says the fee she charges depends on the time and amount of travelling involved in keeping an eye on a home, as well as such things as whether pets and plants need care.

Houses in her care are checked daily to ensure furnaces, freezers, utilities and appliances are all in good order. Mail is taken in, lawns are trimmed or walks kept clean depending on the season.

For an extra charge, Homesitters will install timers to switch house lights on and off at appropriate times.

Marcq said she is considering expanding the service into the United States and is working at establishing an operation in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

She owns the name Homesitters, as well as the company logo, and sells them along with consulting services to local operators.

## Grasping at straws

People who grasp at straws may save lives — especially if the straws are part of a coin-operated breathalyzer device programmed to record alcohol levels in the bloodstream.

The machine, the Electronic Breath Analysis, made by Alcohol Countermeasure Systems Inc. of Sarnia, Ontario, has been installed in many hotel bars and taverns throughout Canada. It is also in demand by pubs, discos, lounges and restaurants — in fact, anywhere that alcoholic beverages are sold.

### Coin operated

The coin-operated electronic tester is easy to install and to use. After blowing into a straw for six seconds, the digital readout is displayed. The unit is ready for the next test in 30 seconds.

The company also produces a portable device that comes in two models. The testers provide police with reliable, objective roadside breath-testing results. They can also be of use to ambulances, hospitals, military and transport agencies, race tracks, airlines, half-way houses and research establishments.