

## Canada-EURATOM nuclear pact

Canada and the Commission of the European Communities have completed amendment of an agreement on nuclear co-operation.

An exchange of letters by Canada and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) for the Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy brought to a close the amendment of a 1959 nuclear agreement between the two parties. The amending process began in 1978 with an exchange of letters.

The letters were exchanged in Brussels by Canada's Head of Mission to the European Communities Richard Tait and Vice-president of the Commission of the European Communities Wilhelm Haferkamp.

Under the amended agreement, EURATOM will provide Canada with the non-proliferation assurance it requires for the reprocessing and high enrichment of exported Canadian nuclear material. In addition, Canada will give EURATOM the long-term predictability it needs for using that material in its nuclear energy programs. The agreement, together with a similar one concluded with Sweden and others under negotiation, is expected to form the basis for an effective Canadian non-proliferation framework.

EURATOM has been one of Canada's major nuclear partners for more than 20 years. In 1980, Canada exported some 3,500 metric tons of uranium worth \$225 million to EURATOM member states. Member states have also invested more than \$1 billion in Canadian uranium resource development and a number of them are considering CANDU nuclear technology.

## Captain's clock goes home

The Vancouver Maritime Museum has bought the chronometer used by Captain George Vancouver during his 1790-1795 explorations of the northwest coast of North America.

The museum paid about \$89,000 for the chronometer, outbidding a group from Australia at Christie's auction house in London, England. Three-quarters of the money bid by the museum was provided by the federal government and the rest by the British Columbia government and Vancouver city council.

"The number of artifacts we can trace back directly to Vancouver is almost nonexistent.... For a city named Vancouver,



Captain Vancouver's Arnold 176.

therefore, this was a very special link," said Robin Inglis, the museum's acting director.

The chronometer, designed by John Arnold of London at Captain Vancouver's request, was subsequently used by Commander Matthew Flinders, who circumnavigated Tasmania and surveyed parts of the Australian coast, and Captain William Bligh of *Bounty* fame, in his capacity as Governor of New South Wales.

## Lost for more than a century

The Arnold chronometer was believed lost for nearly 179 years. It was discovered earlier this year in a private home in England.

Two British scholars Andrew David and David Harries, traced it through various historical documents.

The instrument, an eighteenth-century technological breakthrough that enabled mariners to correctly determine longitude, was made in 1791 and was called the *Arnold 176*.

The chronometer, which cost £84 when it was made, was delivered to Captain Vancouver at Nootka Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island in September 1792. It remained aboard his ship, *HMS Discovery*, until the ship's return to England in 1795.

Captain Vancouver made frequent references to the chronometer in his writings.

When it was found earlier this year, the Vancouver Maritime Museum began a fund-raising campaign to buy back the instrument.

## Federal buildings save fuel

The federal government cut energy use in its buildings by 5 per cent in 1979-80 compared to the 1978-79 figure.

The government, in its fourth annual report on its internal energy conservation program, indicated that the drop in energy consumption represented a \$17-million saving. Since the program began, more than \$160 million has been saved through reduction of energy consumption, now 15 per cent compared to the base year.

The objective of the program is to hold annual energy consumption to a level of at least 10 per cent below that of 1975-76.

The program has been expanded by the government to include three new initiatives. Through supplementary funds to departments and agencies the federal internal retrofit program accelerates the upgrading of federal buildings and facilities to allow higher levels of energy performance. The off-oil program assists in financing the capital cost of converting federal buildings and facilities from heating oil to alternative forms of energy. Under a third scheme, the propane grant program, more than 8,000 federal government motor vehicles could be converted to propane over the next five years.

## Speed skater wins in Germany

Canadian speed skater Gaetan Boucher placed first in the opening international speed skating meet held recently in West Berlin.

Boucher, 23, of St. Foy, Quebec, jumped to an early lead in the two-day sprint competition, setting a course record in the 1,000-metre race, and held on to win the next day against a field of 30 skaters from ten countries.

Boucher totalled 154.38 points in four races — two at 500 metres and two at 1,000 metres.

A seven-year veteran with a long list of victories at the international level — including a silver medal at the 1980 Winter Olympics — Boucher is still looking for his first world title.

"It's one thing that keeps me going," he said. "As long as I have a chance at winning the world championships I'll keep training hard, and trying hard to set new world records."

The world sprint championships are set for the Netherlands in February.

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