

Canada's first newspaper

The first newspaper to be published in what is now Canada appeared in Halifax on March 23, 1752. It was called the *Halifax Gazette*, and was sponsored by the Governor, Edward Cornwallis, who wanted new settlers to be made aware of government actions and decisions.

Nova Scotia had become British by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, but no serious effort had been made to settle it until 1749, when Colonel Cornwallis was sent out with 2,500 settlers to found Halifax as a port and garrison city. The following year another 1,500 settlers, mostly from Hanover, which at that time was part of the British king's domains, arrived. They founded the town of Lunenburg and other settlements along the coast, and were, therefore, more or less remote from Halifax. Governor Cornwallis felt a reliable publication which could be dispatch-

ed regularly to the settlers to keep them informed of government proclamations, new laws and other public events was needed. He appointed a Halifax businessman John Bushell, as King's Printer. A press was imported from England, and the *Halifax Gazette* was produced, just three years after the founding of Halifax.

Independent policy

The publication appeared weekly, and while it continued to publish official pronouncements, it also developed an independent policy and did not hesitate to criticize when its editors thought that the authorities were failing to do their duty or were acting unwisely.

The press, which served the early years of the *Halifax Gazette*, is commemorated by a bronze plaque in the Province House museum as "the first printing press in British North America".

The *Halifax Gazette* preceded the next newspaper in British North America by

41 years. The first Governor of Upper Canada, John Graves Simcoe, made every effort to have a newspaper published in the colony. He finally got a press and a printer and the *Upper Canada Gazette* appeared in Niagara-on-the-Lake on April 18, 1793. However, it did not achieve the success of the *Halifax Gazette*, and appeared only sporadically.

Halifax was the site of the world's first Press Association. The vast American news-gathering organization, Associated Press, set up its first foreign headquarters in Halifax in 1849. That was before the days of the under-sea telegraph cables, and the fastest news from Europe reached North America by the new Cunard steamships. As soon as a ship reached Halifax, the bundles of newspapers and dispatches from London were rushed by fast couriers to New York so that AP could feed the news to its American client newspapers.

(From *Canadian Scene* by Marcus Van Steen, February 6, 1981.)

Novel "air roof" makes stadiums all-weather

Three Toronto men have come up with a design for an "air" roof that could keep away rain or snow at the flick of a switch.

The three, architect Peter Goering and aerodynamics experts Dr. A.A. Haasz and Dr. B. Etkin have spent 11 years developing the air roof and have formed a consortium, Air Roof Canada, to market the concept.

While there are no air roofs in operation now, the concept has been proven in a number of instances. The consortium has undertaken full-scale air curtain tests at Toronto City Hall, utilizing waste exhaust air from the underground garage.

"In addition to providing results for comparisons with the laboratory experiments and computer simulations, the installation also demonstrated that potential applications of air curtains may arise from use of central ventilating and air conditioning systems," Mr. Goering says.

Air curtain

The mechanism, which would produce an air roof, over a stadium for example, would be made up of 76 centrifugal blowers ejecting a high speed air stream through primary jet ports and mixing it with secondary air entrained through an upper duct. The primary and secondary air mixes to produce a final peripheral jet

curtain which then forms a single column of protective air over the centre of the field.

This theory led in 1968 to a request by the Regie Des Installations Olympique to outline a study for developing an air curtain structure for Montreal's Olympic Stadium.

Dr. Haasz of the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies came up with design criteria which were felt to make the subject feasible and well worth investigating.

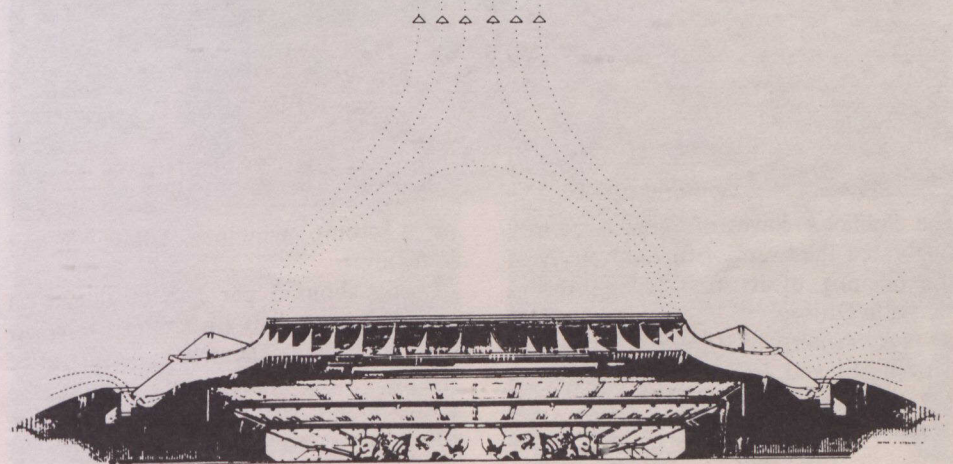
While this preliminary work indicated an air roof may be feasible, further studies will be needed so that the system can finally be marketed. The consortium

with the help of the Ontario government is currently looking for interested parties to put up research and development funding.

The consortium has met with the British sporting press and leading tennis organizations in London.

"They were most enthusiastic about the possibilities of the air roof as a solution to the cancellations of so many events, especially tennis, because of rain," said Jack Young, president of Ontario International Corporation, a provincial Crown corporation, helping to market the system.

(From *Ontario Business News*, February 1981.)



At the flick-of-a-switch, an open air stadium can be covered by an "air roof".