

Order of Canada awards

Singer Anne Murray, jazz pianist Oscar Peterson and York University Chancellor Floyd Chalmers were named Companions of the Order of Canada in the presentation ceremony held on April 10 at the governor general's official residence. Companions are the highest of the Order's three distinctions, followed by officers and members.



Wayne Cuddington, The Citizen

Governor General Jeanne Sauvé congratulates Stanley Knowles at the Order of Canada presentations on April 10.

The Order was established in 1967 to recognize outstanding achievement and service in Canada.

Stanley Knowles, former leader of the federal New Democratic Party, was appointed an officer in recognition of his effort over four decades to gain improvements in pensions, public housing and other social programs. Known as the "conscience of the House of Commons", he was the longest-serving member of parliament before his retirement.

Commander Marc Garneau, the first Canadian astronaut to fly in a United States space shuttle, was also appointed an officer.

Other recipients among the 76 who were honoured included the stars of Canada's 1984 Olympic swim team. Alex Baumann, who won two gold medals and set world records in the 200- and 400-metre individual medley swim events was named an officer and swimmers Anne Ottenbrite and Victor Davis, each of whom won a gold medal, were appointed members.

Author Margaret Avison, Henry Pybus Bell-Irving, the lieutenant-governor of British Columbia from 1978 to 1983, and Montreal lawyer Yves Fortier, were also named officers of the Order. Lawrence Cain of Oakville, Ontario, who won a gold medal at the Olympics for canoeing, was made a member.

Computer-run house

Tomorrow House Systems Inc. of Richmond, British Columbia is marketing what it calls a home security, monitoring and control system that is linked to a personal computer. The system will wake the residents up in the morning with a computerized voice, turn on appliances and run a complete home security network.

The basic package sells for about \$1 350, not including installation and the cost of the computer itself. It is designed to perform a wide range of functions but still be affordable to the average homeowner, said company president James Finkleman.

After waking a person up in the morning, the system's synthesized voice can provide information ranging from time and temperature to reminders of appointments or special dates. It can then turn on bedroom lights to a low level, bringing them slowly up to normal to give the eyes time to adjust. By the time one enters the kitchen for breakfast, the coffee could be made and the bacon sizzling in a pan on top of the stove.

The Tomorrow House system can also automatically set the thermostat in the house at various levels to ensure the furnace or air conditioning will be on when required.

Hooked up to a burglar alarm, the system can sound an alarm, turn on all the lights in the house and record the time of any attempted break-ins. In addition, the system can be connected to a smoke alarm in order

to light exit routes if a fire breaks out.

More elaborate systems are also available. The basic package can be customized to carry out almost any function the homeowner desires, Mr. Finkleman said. "There's no end to it. It depends entirely on your imagination," he said.

A few of the other possibilities include adding light sensors that will open and close drapes according to the amount of sunlight, and moisture gauges to turn the sprinklers on when the lawn is dry, said Mr. Finkleman.

Chess champions

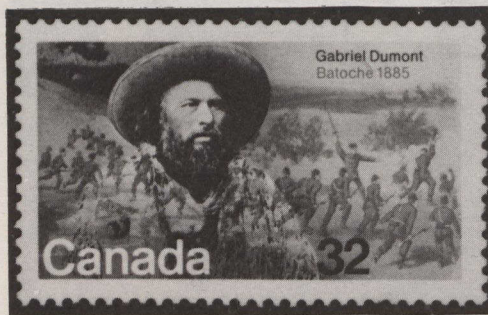
Canadian chess players have been successful in winning 1985 international chess titles. Bob Kiviahoo of Worthington, Ontario, and Jean Hebert of Montreal have received postal Grandmaster (GM) titles while Canadian champion Kevin Spraggett of Montreal won his first GM norm for over-the-board play by retaining the Commonwealth title in London, England.

Kevin Spraggett scored 8-3 to win on tie-break over Praven Thipsay of India. His critical victories were against British GM John Nunn and Niaz Murshed of Bangladesh. In 1986 the Commonwealth tournament will be in Toronto.

Canada's most active player last year, Brian Hartman of Hamilton, Ontario, registered an International Master (IM) norm by taking third place in the Windy City International in Chicago.

Stamp honours Saskatchewan Métis leader

Canada Post issued a new domestic-rate postage stamp on May 1 in recognition of Gabriel Dumont, a skilled buffalo hunter who became adjutant general in Louis Riel's Métis forces during the 1885 Northwest Rebellion.



The stamp, designed by Vancouver graphic artist Reinhard Derreth, features a portrait of Dumont superimposed on a scene representing the final assault of the Battle of Batoche.

René J. Marin, chairman of the Board of Canada Post Corporation, noted that "Dumont fought so skillfully until his defeat at the Battle of Batoche in Saskatchewan, where his forces were greatly outnumbered, that he gained the respect of his adversaries as a leader of consummate skill".

Fearing western expansion in the southern Saskatchewan territory late in the nineteenth century, Dumont organized a small resistance army to protect Métis settlements in the area. In 1884, he led a delegation to Montana to bring back Louis Riel who had gone into exile following the unsuccessful uprising at Red River in 1870. Reinstated as Métis leader, Riel appointed Dumont head of the small Métis army which was initially successful in repressing attacks.

With their forces defeated at Batoche, Riel was arrested, tried and hanged for treason. Dumont fled to the United States where he joined William "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Wild West Show.

After being granted amnesty, Dumont returned to Canada and resettled in Batoche in 1893 where he died in 1906.