
World Series of snowmobile racing

The 1980 World Series of snowmobile racing will be held in Waldheim, Saskatchewan, about 48 kilometres north of Saskatoon, from February 22 to 24.

The World Series events are the climax of the snowmobile racing season with amateurs and professionals competing in various classes for a total of more than \$40,000 in prize money. Racers may compete in six divisions.

This is the first time that the World Series and Snow Pro events have been held in Canada and participants are expected from Sweden and Japan as well as from across North America.

For further information about the World Series events contact: Earl Harder, P.O. Box 95, Waldheim, Saskatchewan, S0K 4R0.

Canada assists journalism program

Canada, in co-operation with France, is helping to turn out communications graduates to join the African job market as editors, commentators, interviewers or information officers.

Since 1970, the two countries have co-operated with two journalism schools in Africa to help meet the need for professionals who can give the public an objective, accurate picture of African life.

The African institutions involved are the Centre for Study of Information Sciences and Techniques (CESTI) in Dakar, Senegal and Ecole Supérieure Internationale de Journalisme (ESIJY) in Yaounde, Cameroun.

Both France and Canada have contributed funds and instructors to the project. Canada's total contribution to the CESTI-ESIJY project since 1973 totals just over \$11 million.

Canada defrays the cost of a three-month stay in Montreal for third-year ESIJY students and pays the entire cost of maintaining the school in Dakar. France is responsible for sending three instructors, and Senegal provides accommodation for the students on the University of Dakar campus.

The students finish their three years of theoretical and practical instruction in communications techniques at the African institutions and then attend a three-month intensive course at the University of Montreal.

The training in Montreal provides the African students with the opportunity to produce and broadcast radio and television programs and publish articles in newspapers such as Montreal's *Le Devoir*.

This year's group of students were from the equatorial and western regions of Africa. They spoke French or English, the languages of communications and education. In addition, they were representatives of traditional cultures and languages such as the Fulfulde of Cameroun, the Wolof of Senegal and the Dendi of Benin.

The world's first synthetic crude oil refinery planned

The world's first refinery purposely designed to use synthetic crude oil feedstock will be built near Edmonton by Shell Canada Ltd. of Toronto, reports Thomas Kennedy in an article in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, November 22.

Construction of the \$350-million plant could begin this year and be completed at an initial daily throughput capacity of 44,000 barrels, by 1983. About 135 employees will be required.

The refinery, says Mr. Kennedy, will initially draw feedstock from the two existing commercial oil sands plants in northeastern Alberta and eventually will switch to feedstock from the Alsands Oil sands plant sponsored by Shell and other private interests. The third oil sands production plant to be built by 1985 is estimated to cost more than \$5 billion.

According to William Daniel, president of Shell, the Edmonton refinery, possibly located in the Alberta capital's already extensive "refinery row," will ultimately be expanded.

Running at close to 70,000 barrels a day, the synthetic oil refinery, besides turning out gasoline, stove oil, diesel and jet fuels for the western Canadian market, also would support an adjacent petrochemical complex.

Synthetic crude is a partly processed feedstock that will need a less complicated and less expensive refinery treatment than crude oil.

The Shell companies (Shell Canada Resources Ltd. of Calgary, and Shell Explorer Ltd. of Houston) with the Canadian subsidiary as operator have a combined 45 percent stake in the Alsands project.

By the time the Shell refinery goes on stream, synthetic crude production will be about 125,000 barrels a day from the Syncrude Canada Ltd. plant and about 60,000 barrels a day from the Great Canadian Oil Sands Ltd. plant, both near Fort McMurray.

The Alsands plant will provide an additional 140,000 barrels a day of synthetic oil.

Uranium found by James Bay Development Corporation

The James Bay Development Corporation (JBDC) has confirmed that important uranium sources have been found at Lake Gayot, north of the LaGrande River, in the James Bay territory of northwestern Quebec.

The property is owned jointly by JBDC and the Urangesellschaft group of West Germany through a Canadian exploration subsidiary. Urangesellschaft is owned by a group of West German power utilities and is an important factor in northern Saskatchewan uranium exploration and development. It is the operator of the program on the Lake Gayot property.

JBDC, which is owned by the Quebec government directly or indirectly, was set up in the early 1970s to explore and develop the mineral resources generally of the James Bay territory in parallel with development of the huge power potential of the LaGrande and other rivers (see *Canada Weekly*, dated November 14, 1979, P. 4).

"From the data gathered so far, excellent tonnage potential is indicated. The drilling program will be continued," JBDC said in its announcement.

JBDC and private partners have spent about \$15 million so far on uranium exploration in the James Bay territory. Work began with the joint venture on the Lake Gayot property in 1976 and so far about \$3 million has been spent on drilling.

The \$1-million drilling program has confirmed the tonnage potential of the sources found earlier and has indicated that the potential ore body is inclined and relatively near the surface. But it will take one and possibly two years more to confirm the potential, JBDC officials said. Volume could be large in low-grade materials, or relatively small in high-grade.