

## News briefs

**Retired Canadians** are giving leadership in community activities with grants from the federal government's New Horizons program. Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin announced grants to 195 New Horizons projects with some 27 000 participants throughout the country for a total value of \$1 150 703. New Horizons projects are organized by groups of ten or more retired people who volunteer their time to community activities. Since it began in 1972, New Horizons has funded approximately 19 000 projects chosen by groups of older people for the benefit of themselves and others in the community.

**Combined car sales** in May 1983 by the four largest auto makers rose almost 27 per cent from a year earlier and all four firms posted sales gains. Chrysler sold 16 417 cars in May 1983, the highest monthly total since May 1979, and almost 42 per cent more than in May 1982. Combined car and truck sales in May 1983 rose 28.9 per cent from May 1982.

**The federal government** will invest \$140.7 million in fisheries infrastructure and harbour development projects across the country. The new funds have been earmarked for such projects as marine service centres, small craft harbours, fish unloading systems and ice-making facilities, bait storage depots, saltfish processing facilities, and a new electronic survey vessel.

**The Western and Pacific Bank** of Canada officially opened for business in Vancouver on June 15. The bank will take an active role in funnelling investment funds into Canada from Hong Kong, while at the same time underwriting commercial loans in Alberta and British Columbia. It is planning to make commercial loans in the \$250 000 to \$2.5 million market niche, taking the top end of the small business sector. Although the bank has only one location, offices are planned for Edmonton and Calgary.

**Inshore fishermen** in eastern Canada can look forward to an improved market for mackerel this year with the announcement by Fisheries and Oceans Minister Pierre De Bané that the Fisheries Prices Support Board plans to buy \$3.5 million worth of canned mackerel. The canned fish will be used to meet the requirements of Canadian food aid and development programs administered by the Canadian International Development Agency and the World Food Program.

## Honeymoon couple retraces fur traders' route



The Citizen

*Honeymooners Joan and Gary McGuffin on a brief stop-over in Ottawa during their 10 000-kilometre expedition that will retrace the route of Canada's original fur traders.*

Newlyweds Joan Wood and Gary McGuffin of London, Ontario have set out on a honeymoon they are not likely to forget. Nor are a number of others — if the couple's second dream comes true.

Just weeks after being married in Bracebridge, Ontario the young couple began a two-year, 10 000 kilometre canoe expedition. Retracing the route of Canada's original fur traders, the couple set out from Godbout, Quebec on the Gulf of St. Lawrence and will end at Tuktoyaktuk, an Eskimo settlement in the Northwest Territories on the Beaufort Sea.

"We thought this would be the best way to see the different parts of Canada and at the same time see it through the eyes of the first white men who discovered it," said Joan, during the couple's brief stop-over in Ottawa.

The trip is being made in two stages. Aiming to paddle an average of 30 kilometres a day, the two will end the first segment of the journey in October or November at The Pas, Manitoba. In May 1984, they will return to The Pas and paddle the remaining 5 000 kilometres to Tuktoyaktuk, hoping to arrive around September 30, 1984.

Since they embarked May 5, they've battled heavy rains and the currents of the St. Lawrence, floated past migrating whales, and had a close-up view of wildlife on its banks.

Gary said one of the most thrilling parts of the trip has been the sight of migrating whales. "It seems almost like a miracle to see something like that in a

river in Canada. When those five-metre whales come up to the surface they're three times the size of our canoe. It makes you feel so small and helpless."

The McGuffins spent about a year planning their trip and obtained the sponsorship of Labatt's Breweries. Gary estimates the cost of food, equipment and transportation will be about \$15 000.

They are also being sponsored by Nike, which is providing wind suits and foot gear, and Magic Pantry, which is providing 600 meals.

And the couple's second dream?

When the canoe expedition is completed, they plan to put together a photo-journalism book on their experience.

"We want people to know what we're doing. We hope they will be interested in what we're doing and will listen to what we say. We want Canadians to be excited about the wilderness too," Gary said.

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