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National productivity centre unites business and labour

The federal government will spend \$27 million over the next four years to establish the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre, designed to bring business and labour together for the first time in almost a decade to study pressing economic problems.

The centre will be the first forum in which management and trade unionists can tackle long-term problems together. It will examine how to improve productivity in the public and private sectors and assess labour market requirements and employment growth in Canada.

The idea is to have business and labour consult in order to create jobs, foresee technological change, and devise schemes to mitigate its effects.

The proposed centre will examine the critical issues of productivity improvement, labour market requirements and employment growth in Canada. It will be divided into two branches: the Productivity and Employment Growth Branch,

which is to involve labour and business in examining productivity in both the public and private sectors; and the Labour Market Branch which will examine the supply and demand for key skills and make recommendations to address these issues.

The establishment of such a centre is in response to an initiative proposed by Finance Minister Marc Lalonde in his budget speech last April. In it, Mr. Lalonde identified productivity and competitiveness as critical issues for Canada. "For recovery to be sustained in Canada, and for real growth of our incomes and our living standards to resume," he noted, "we must raise our sights beyond the period immediately ahead of us. A broad national effort is required over the remaining years of the decade to make sure that Canada remains one of the most productive, competitive and prosperous economies in the industrialized world. Our major trading partners will continue



Announcing the creation of a new Labour Market and Productivity Centre are (from left to right) Finance Minister Marc Lalonde, Labour Minister André Ouellet, Thomas d'Aquino, president of the Business Council on National Issues and Shirley Carr, executive vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress.

Canapress



External Affairs
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Affaires extérieures
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to move forward. To remain competitive, Canada therefore has no choice but to move forward too. We must put our businesses and our workers in a position to meet and beat the competition."

Labour involvement

In calling for the "door to be opened to labour" the recent Speech from the Throne stated: "Labour has been and should continue to be a full partner in the process of economic recovery. Workers deserve a fair share of the recovery's benefits and an equal voice in the resolution of issues such as technological change and productivity improvement.... The government has worked closely with labour and business representatives to establish a new centre for productivity and employment growth. Reconciling the advantages of technology with the needs of workers will be one of the main tasks of this centre."

The announcement, made jointly by Finance Minister Marc Lalonde, Labour Minister André Ouellet, Industry Minister Ed Lumley and Employment and Immigration Minister John Roberts, is the culmination of several months of planning and development work by a joint business and labour steering committee which developed a mandate, organizational structure and terms of reference for the centre.

"...the government has worked closely with labour and business representatives to establish a new centre of productivity and employment growth. Reconciling the advantages of technology with the needs of workers will be one of the main tasks of the centre."

Speech from the Throne
December 7, 1983

The steering committee, co-chaired by Shirley Carr, executive vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress and Thomas d'Aquino, president, Business Council on National Issues, submitted its report late last year to Ministers Ouellet and Lumley.

The report noted: "The challenges we face from both massive and rapid technological change and international competition will require far more adaptability and flexibility in our approach to the work environment and institutional structures. We are of the view that the centre we are proposing in this report would play an important

"The establishment of this centre is a very welcome outcome of...the effort to develop a new national partnership of labour, management and governments to meet the tough competitive challenges of the Eighties."

Finance Minister Marc Lalonde,
announcing the establishment of the
Canadian Market and Productivity Centre.

role in assisting all segments of the Canadian economy to successfully cope with the challenges we face."

Board of directors

The centre will be governed by a board of directors comprising 12 labour representatives, 12 business representatives, and two educators. In addition there will be 14 ex-officio non-voting members, four from the federal government, the remaining ten to be offered to the provincial governments. The board will be co-chaired by business and labour; and an executive committee of six business representatives and six labour representatives will be responsible for the operation of the centre between board of directors meetings.

EDC aids Asia and Pacific region

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a \$10-million (US) line of credit with Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (Asia) Limited (CIBCA) of Singapore to support sales of Canadian capital goods and services to 11 countries in the Asia and Pacific region as well as Australia and New Zealand.

The line of credit will assist Canadian exporters competing for sales in the Asia and Pacific region by providing their buyers with a simple and easily accessible credit facility through the bank.

It is expected that the main application of the line of credit will be to support contracts for small- and medium-sized exports of goods and services. Sales contracts will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

EDC lines of credit are a special kind of fixed-interest-rate lending in which EDC lends to banks, which re-lend at their own risk to buyers of Canadian capital goods and services. Since rates and terms have been predetermined, financing arrangements can be finalized quickly. Canadian exporters interested in taking advantage of this line of credit can contact either EDC or CIBCA.

First futures exchange since 1898 opens in Toronto

Action has started at the \$750 000 Toronto Futures Exchange.

Although it will undoubtedly be some time before the new trading pit can offer the frenzied activity and, more importantly, the liquidity that characterizes Chicago and New York futures markets, officials of the new exchange are optimistic there is a healthy demand for futures trading in Canada.

Flanked by prominent members of the Canadian investment community, Robert Elgie, Ontario Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, cut the ceremonial ribbon that started the ball rolling at the new exchange. Minutes later, he executed the first trade — for one TSE 300 composite index contract — on behalf of Burns Fry Ltd. and James Williams, vice-president of the Bank of Montreal.

Mr. Elgie said it is only a matter of time before the TFE — Ontario's first new exchange since 1898 — will be strong enough to attract Canadians to trade Canadian futures and compete with other international commodity markets.

So far, response has been enthusiastic. Huntly McKay, president of the futures exchange, said 239 seats have been sold at a price of \$6 500 each, with 30 going to foreign firms.

New Speaker named

Ottawa Member of Parliament Lloyd Francis has been unanimously chosen Speaker of the House of Commons, replacing Jeanne Sauvé who resigned to become Governor General.



Lloyd Francis

Lloyd Francis was born in Ottawa, studied economics at the University of Toronto and earned his doctorate in economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1955. He was first elected to the House of Commons to represent Ottawa West in 1963, and was re-elected in 1968, 1974 and in 1980. He has been Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons since April 1980.

Air Canada launches new cargo service to Brussels

Air Canada is beginning a new cargo service between Montreal's Mirabel Airport and Brussels in a bid to become a major player in the transatlantic air freight business.

The airline is using DC-8 aircraft for the Mirabel-Brussels service — which also includes a Toronto stop — to increase its North Atlantic volume during the high-demand weekend period. Increasing volume is crucial because there has been plenty of price-cutting on the North Atlantic run, which means Air Canada and its competitors are getting less profit on existing traffic.

"The new operation will establish Air Canada as one of the few carriers to renew its commitment to freighters at a time of sharp reductions in world-wide cargo capacity," said Bernard Gilles, Air Canada's vice-president for cargo.

Initially, Air Canada will operate two flights a weekend on the new service, gradually increasing to between six and eight flights a weekend by the end of the year.

Air Canada is taking over the Brussels operations vacated recently by Pan Am and can transport goods between the Brussels airport and most major European cities by truck within five or six hours. The carrier will continue freight service in the North American market and will maintain direct DC-8 freighter service to Zurich, Shannon and Prestwick, Scotland.

Passenger flights to Frankfurt, Dusseldorf, Glasgow, London, Paris and Zurich — and starting in late April, Munich and Geneva — will continue to carry cargo, but Air Canada hopes to channel most of its freight to the weekend Brussels flights.



Air Canada is using DC-8 aircraft for its new Toronto-Montreal-Brussels freight service.

PM announces June Summit meeting

The Prime Minister has announced that, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Britain, the next Summit meeting of heads of state or government of the seven major Western industrialized countries and the president of the Commission of the European Communities will be held in London on June 7, 8 and 9.

The London Summit will be the tenth such meeting of leaders of the major Western industrialized countries. The Summit group consists of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States. The European Community has also been represented by the president of the European Council and by the president of the European Commission.

First think-tank on disarmament

A research group of well-known Canadians has established a new agency to bring a Canadian perspective to the study of arms control and disarmament.

John Lamb, executive director of the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament established January 25, said that while the group did not want to be "parochial", they wanted to inform Canadians and explore arms control issues.

The centre, the first "think-tank" devoted exclusively to disarmament, will sponsor research, develop fresh policy alternatives and keep Canadians informed of developments in international security through periodic public information campaigns.

"The directors and advisers of the centre, ranging across the political spectrum, are agreed on at least one point," Mr. Lamb said. "We believe there is a pressing need to encourage well-informed analysis and vigorous debate on arms limitation issues in Canada."

The centre has a three-year, \$375 000 grant from the Donner Canadian Foundation, a private charitable body. It will also seek funds from other foundations, corporations and government.

The board of directors includes former retired Admiral Robert Falls, former British Columbia Supreme Court Justice Thomas Berger, broadcaster Patrick Watson, former government disarmament adviser E.L.M. Burns, and other experts on disarmament from universities across the country.

Latest sports equipment featured at ISPO 84 in Munich

The newest and best sports equipment produced by 31 Canadian companies will be on display at ISPO 84, the twentieth International Sports Equipment Fair to be held in Munich, West Germany from February 23 to 26.

During the 1970s, the Canadian sporting goods industry experienced a period of unprecedented growth as it responded both to the Canadian fitness boom and an increased amount of leisure time. During that decade, domestic sales of sporting goods rose by 400 per cent. By 1981, annual sales had reached \$500 million.

Though Canada's entry into the international sporting goods market is recent, the industry has made considerable impact. From 1970 to 1980, annual export sales rose from \$20 million to \$100 million, with a major emphasis on hockey equipment. In recent years, emphasis has

shifted to include a wide range of equipment, such as skates, ski equipment, home fitness and body-building equipment, sportswear, footwear and protective facial shields, mountain climbing and hiking equipment as well as a wide selection of hockey equipment.

Thirty-one Canadian companies will be displaying their latest lines of sports equipment at IPSO 84.

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(ANSWERBACK CAN D).

"Fathers of Telidon" establish new company

The two engineers who were instrumental in developing Telidon, the two-way information technology, have started their own company to get Canadians to use Telidon and make it a commercial success.

Herb Bown and Douglas O'Brien, who both left executive positions at Kanata's Norpak Ltd. last November, said IDON Corp., the new company they started recently, will not compete with Norpak but could be a valuable source of new business for the company.

Herb Bown and Douglas O'Brien will act as "information brokers" for businesses, educational institutions and individuals who are interested in a Telidon-based information system but do not know where to start or how to put it together.

"One of our strengths is obviously our knowledge of the technology, and we want to share that knowledge with Canadian companies and help them use the technology," said Mr. Bown.

Telidon is Canada's version of videotex technology, a two-way information system carried into the home through telephone lines and fed through a decoder hooked up to a television set or a special Telidon terminal. It links users with information and services such as news, banking and shopping.

Herb Bown, known in the industry as the "father of Telidon", and Douglas O'Brien were part of the communications department research team that developed Telidon in the early 1970s.



Douglas O'Brien (left) and Herb Bown, creators of a new company to promote Telidon, Canada's two-way information system.

Once the basic technology was established and the industry had started hammering out a North American standard for the technology, they both moved to Norpak, which manufactures videotex decoders, in mid-1981.

Mr. Bown and Mr. O'Brien believe the best immediate applications of Telidon are in small, closed systems for business and educational uses. For example, a doctor or dentist could use the technology to store patient records, complete with full-colour graphics to clarify the information. A real estate company could use videotex for pictures and information about house listings.

But there has never been an impartial source where individuals or companies could go to find out the best way to set up a videotex system or what equipment to buy.

IDON will take on consulting jobs, design systems and put users in touch with the manufacturers and information providers best suited to their needs.

They will also help companies by putting them in touch with potential buyers for their products.

"Our motto is 'strength through co-operation,'" said Mr. Bown. "There has to be more co-operation in this industry, and we hope to bring together the strengths of several companies — but always with the user in mind."

For further information, please contact IDON Corp., P.O. Box 3728, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. K1Y 4J8.

Romanian nuclear project

Work will begin immediately on contracts worth a total of \$70 million to supply steam generators, heat exchangers and calandrias to the Cernavoda nuclear power facility in Romania.

Two Canadian firms, Babcock and Wilcox Canada from Cambridge, Ontario and Versatile Vickers from Montreal have signed contracts with Romenergo, the Foreign Trade Organization responsible for the Cernavoda project, at the end of 1983 for this equipment. Their contracts became effective in mid-January 1984 when they received downpayments.

The Export Development Corporation is financing these sales under a \$680-million (US) loan granted to the Romanian Bank for Foreign Trade which covers the sales of two CANDU nuclear power stations by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

The two projects are scheduled to be completed during 1986.

Task force to probe water issues

In an effort to "forestall a water crisis" Environment Minister Charles Caccia has appointed a three-member task force on water issues to look at pollution, supply projections, flooding and drainage, and the idea of exporting water to the United States.

Called the Advisory Committee on Federal Water Strategies, the task force will be headed by Vancouver resource economist Peter Pearse. It will hold hearings across the country and recommend a federal water strategy within 18 months.

"No longer can we be confident about the continuing availability of fresh, unpolluted and useable water," Mr. Caccia warned. "Our children will not be able to take clean water for granted," unless the country can "reverse the tide of toxic chemicals" and allocate water among many potential users, he said.

The minister compared the water situation to that of oil before the energy crisis, but he added that, "we do not need to have a water crisis", if adequate plans are made now.

The commission has a budget of \$1.5 million. Its job is to advise the federal government what it should do within its limited constitutional powers to cope with emerging water issues, but Mr. Caccia said he hoped to arrive at "a well-thought-out strategy that is supported across the nation".

Electronics research boosted

Co-operation between industry and universities in high technology was strengthened recently when the federal government formally established a network for microelectronics design research and increased funds for two related areas.

The government has announced the establishment of the non-profit Canadian Microelectronics Corp. to help oversee a university research network for silicon-chip technology and produce graduates better qualified to enter industry.

At the same time, it has given the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council \$17.4 million more this year for its university research and manpower training program and \$16.5 million over the next three years for a university and industry program.

Science and Technology Minister Donald Johnston said the measures indicate a recognition by government that "intellectual capital" is the most important ingredient for success in the highly competitive microelectronics industry.

The corporation was launched in January at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and oversees work stations at ten universities in integrated circuit design research.

Within three years, it hopes to have in place about 40 design stations involving 20 to 25 universities and at least 150 more students graduating with better qualifications.

Telecom wins giant US order

Northern Telecom Inc., the US subsidiary of Mississauga-based Northern Telecom Ltd., has landed an order worth more than \$130 million (US) from the United States long-distance telephone company, MCI Communications Corp.

The telecommunications company announced recently that it will supply DMS-250 digital switching systems and related equipment for use in MCI's long-distance network.

The DMS-250 will be used to connect MCI's trunk lines with telephone switching centres to link MCI customers across the United States.

"MCI is the largest of the so-called 'AT&T alternatives', specialized common carriers offering long-distance rates 20 to 40 per cent cheaper than those charged by the US giant American Telephone & Telegraph Co.

Illuminating pipe lights up the darkness



Lorne Whitehead, inventor of the Light Pipe and head of TIR Systems Ltd., holds sections of Light Pipe material.

A device for moving illumination from a remote source to the desired area in a building is being manufactured by a Vancouver company.

The inventor of the Light Pipe, Lorne Whitehead, said he came upon this application of the optical principle called total internal reflection while working in a dim basement room for a master's degree in physics from the University of British Columbia. He is president of TIR Systems Ltd., formed over a year ago.

The acrylic pipe made and marketed by TIR Systems is 20-centimetres-square in cross-section and available in standard lengths of 2.4 to 7.2 metres.

Several units can be joined and custom lengths of up to 19.8 metres can be made — with elbows to bend light around corners. The desire to pipe light is not new. Mr. Whitehead said an inventor applied for a patent in 1882 for a device to transmit light from a carbon arc lamp throughout a building. His problem was that too much light was absorbed by the "pipe".

"We have, for the first time, a light pipe that is both inexpensive and efficient enough. All light piping is based on reflecting light. In our case, the mirror is more efficient."

Sawtooth ridges

Mr. Whitehead hit upon the idea of forming the surfaces of the acrylic sheets into a series of sawtooth ridges on 45-degree angles.

As the light rays moving along the pipe

at random angles bounce off the walls, they are virtually all reflected back into the pipe by these serrations.

Precision in forming these angles is critical and TIR is one of only a few companies in North America molding to such demanding specifications, Mr. Whitehead said. Any light source can be used but high-intensity discharge lamps such as clear metal halide or high-pressure sodium lamps are especially suitable.

Marketing is concentrated for now on applications where the benefits are obvious from easier maintenance or safety, such as providing light over a swimming pool.

Light could be piped into space where installed electrical fixtures would pose a potential danger of sparks, such as solvent storage areas, paint shops, grain elevators, gasoline storage or explosive storage areas.

Variations tested

TIR is testing a variation of the light pipe for large-scale illumination, as an alternative to recessed fluorescent ceiling fixtures in office buildings. One light source with reflectors could serve two six-metre lengths of light pipe. The lengths would have mirrors at their ends to reflect light back and a controlled diffusion panel on the bottom to provide a source of even, glare-free light.

TIR is satisfied that its current manufacturing process is serviceable and has just taken delivery of a new press that will produce larger pieces.

(Article from the Globe and Mail.)

Caribou herds roam close to home

St. John's, Newfoundland's capital, is the only major Canadian city with a herd of wild caribou at its doorstep, thanks to a conservation miracle and the rocky barrens that cover most of the province's south.

The 3 000 caribou roam the Avalon Wilderness Area, an 850-square-kilometre wildlife haven that lies amid towns, roads and nearly half of Newfoundland's human population.

Tourist attraction

Nowhere else in North America are wild caribou so accessible. The herd has become a popular tourist attraction.

The Avalon Peninsular is barren country much like the northern tundra other caribou prefer. The gently rolling plateau was scraped bare by the ice-age glaciers, leaving a landscape of scarred bedrock littered with huge boulders, gravelly ridges and hundreds of ponds.

Except in wind-sheltered river valleys there are few trees. Blueberries and other ground-hugging heaths, dwarf-spruce thickets known as tukemore and peat bogs predominate. Snowshoe hare, moose, otter, trout, ptarmigan and numerous small birds thrive in the peninsula.

The Avalon caribou herd is unique in many ways, say officials of the Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division.

The peninsular supports more caribou for each square kilometre than any other area of North America, including the



St. John's caribou are popular tourist attraction.

NFB, 94329

largest individual animals ever recorded in a caribou herd.

It is also the farthest south that wild caribou occur, although this was not always so. Caribou once roamed much of Eastern Canada, but encroaching civilization wiped them out more than a century ago.

In the late 1950s, poachers almost annihilated the Avalon herd, reducing it to probably fewer than 100 animals. In 1964 the province responded by creating the wilderness area, removing poachers' cabins and improving its control over hunting and harassment of caribou.

By 1980 the herd had grown to 3 000 animals. Now it can support an annual hunting kill of more than 200 animals and is extending its range south.

People are allowed to visit the wilderness preserve, but they must have a permit. Canoeists, hikers, cross-country skiers, anglers and four-wheel-drive vehicle owners all use the area.

Top wrestler dies

Lord Athol Layton, one of Canada's best known professional wrestlers, died recently of a heart attack. He was 63.

A native of Sydney, Australia, Lord Athol Layton moved to Toronto in 1950. His wrestling career lasted 28 years and involved more than 3 500 matches. He later refereed and covered wrestling on television.

He was nicknamed "Lord" by a group of youngsters at a sports club in Australia who were impressed by his 1.95-metre height and 121.5-kilogram weight.

Enerstat slashes fuel costs

Engineers at Ottawa's Valera Electronics Inc. have come up with a product they claim can cut heating costs by about 15 per cent.

It is called the Enerstat, a programmable microcomputer thermostat. Once heating or air-conditioning is turned on and off at the times programmed it can be relied upon to operate until a change is required.

Although thermostat timers do the same thing, the single microcomputer chip that controls the Enerstat also has an "anticipating" feature that keeps the house or office temperature constant, avoiding the temperature fluctuations that occur in the normal operation of a furnace.

Valera has sold more than 60 000 basic models since the product came out in 1981. The small high-technology company recently announced three new models.

Valera president Ross Hamre says the company has already received more than \$1-million worth of orders for the new models, and customers include many international manufacturers of heating and air-conditioning equipment. He expects sales of at least \$5 million for the current year.

The newer Enerstat models can be programmed differently for weekdays and weekends, and all models take up to four temperatures in a 24-hour period.

The Enerstat thermostat products retail between \$150 and \$280.

World YWCA names first Canadian president

For the first time in its 89-year history, the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) has elected a Canadian as president.

The 84-nation association elected Mrs. Ann Northcote of Toronto, past president of the YWCA of Canada, to the presidency at its recent quadrennial conference in Singapore.

Mrs. Northcote succeeded Dame Nita Barrow of the Barbados who, a few weeks earlier, had been elected president of the Toronto-based International Council for Adult Education at its biennial conference in Paris.

The World YWCA, through its member associations, works to further the cause of human rights, peace and justice. As a member of the world association, the YWCA of Canada seeks to increase Canadian awareness of world issues and participates in exchange programs with YWCAs in other countries.

With assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency, the Canadian association supports projects in 30 developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific. Mrs. Northcote has been an active member of the Canadian YWCA for many years and prior to her election as president served on the executive committee of the world association.



Ann Northcote

Vancouver girl stars in new "Oz" film

Fairuza Balk from Vancouver, British Columbia, a poised, freckle-faced nine-year-old, has landed the leading role — over thousands of other hopefuls across North America — of Dorothy in Walt Disney's feature film *Return to Oz*.



Canapress

Vancouver's Fairuza Balk captures top role.

Fairuza was among the final 12 selected from 269 girls between nine and 13 who auditioned for the part after an extensive search throughout the United States and Canada. She was then invited to fly to Los Angeles in November to audition for the role made famous by an older and taller Judy Garland.

Filming of the new *Oz* film begins shortly in England and should take four-and-a-half months. The movie will be a compilation and reinterpretation of Frank Baum's *Oz* books written after *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, which was published in 1900. It was the book that the 1925 silent movie and the 1939 MGM classic film were based upon.

Talking Dirty, a comedy by Vancouver, British Columbia writer Sherman Snukal, captured the \$5 000 Floyd S. Chalmers Award for the best Canadian Play performed in Toronto in 1983. Jim Betts of Toronto took first prize of \$1 500 for his play *Mystery of the Oak Island Treasure* in the best Children's Play category.

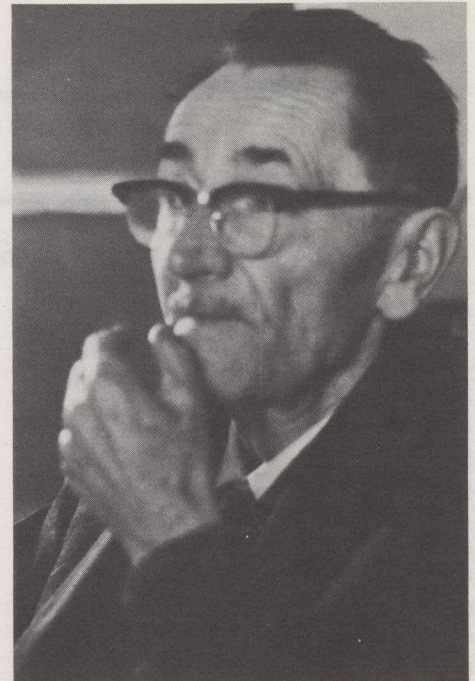
Comic strip creators featured in NFB documentary

Two new National Film Board (NFB) profiles featuring comic strip cartoonist Lynn Johnston and Ukrainian artist Jacob Maydanyk were shown recently on the CBC-TV network.

In *See You in the Funny Papers*, 36-year-old Lynn Johnston, creator of one of North America's favourite comic strips, *For Better or for Worse*, talks candidly about the difficulties of juggling fame and fortune with her role as wife and mother. Her syndicated comic strip, based on the daily activities of her own family, is carried in 500 newspapers in ten countries.

Full of Johnston's down-to-earth wit and charm, the film cuts back and forth from her hectic home life in Lynn Lake, Manitoba to her life as a public figure coping with inquisitive TV talk show hosts and crowded lecture halls. The film is directed by NFB filmmaker Grant Munro.

Laughter in my Soul, the second film profile, looks at 90-year-old Jacob Maydanyk, one of the first wave of Ukrainian immigrants who settled in the Canadian West in the early part of this century. Painter, satirist, publisher and teacher, Jacob Maydanyk created a satirical cartoon character named Shteeff Tabachniuk. Shteeff, who was Archie Bunker and Laurel and Hardy rolled into one, quickly



Ukrainian artist Jacob Maydanyk.

became a Ukrainian folk hero. The film also chronicles the experiences of the first Ukrainian settlers as they adjusted to a new culture. *Laughter in my Soul* is narrated by John Colicas and directed by Halya Kuchmij.



Cartoonist Lynn Johnston (centre) working with National Film Board director Grant Munro (left) and film editor Judith Merritt (right).

NFB, S-18094

NFB, S-18200

Caribou herds roam close to home

St. John's, Newfoundland's capital, is the only major Canadian city with a herd of wild caribou at its doorstep, thanks to a conservation miracle and the rocky barrens that cover most of the province's south.

The 3 000 caribou roam the Avalon Wilderness Area, an 850-square-kilometre wildlife haven that lies amid towns, roads and nearly half of Newfoundland's human population.

Tourist attraction

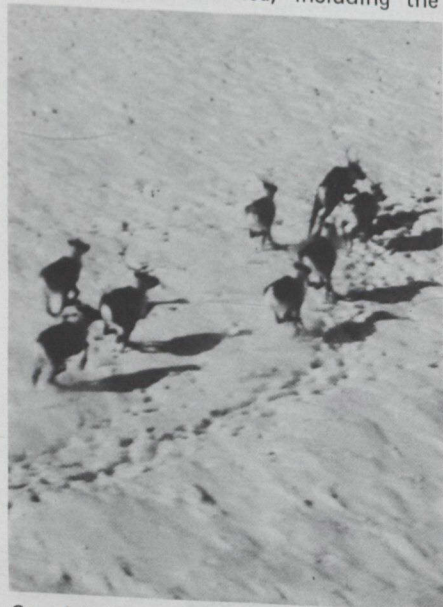
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Valera president Ross Hamre says the company has already received more than \$1-million worth of orders for the new models, and customers include many international manufacturers of heating and air-conditioning equipment. He expects sales of at least \$5 million for the current year.

The newer Enerstat models can be programmed differently for weekdays and weekends, and all models take up to four temperatures in a 24-hour period.

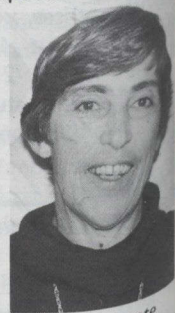
The Enerstat thermostat products retail between \$150 and \$280.

World YWCA names first Canadian president

For the first time in its 89-year history, the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) has elected a Canadian as president.

The 84-nation association elected Mrs. Ann Northcote of Toronto, past president of the YWCA of Canada, to the presidency at its recent quadrennial conference in Singapore.

Mrs. Northcote succeeded Dame Nita Barrow of the Barbados who, a few weeks earlier, had been elected president of the Toronto-based International Council for Adult Education at its biennial conference in Paris.



Ann Northcote

The World YWCA, through its member associations, works to further the cause of human rights, peace and justice. As a member of the world association, the YWCA of Canada seeks to increase Canadian awareness of world issues and participates in exchange programs with YWCAs in other countries.

With assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency, the Canadian association supports projects in 30 developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific. Mrs. Northcote has been an active member of the Canadian YWCA for many years and prior to her election as president served on the executive committee of the world association.

NFB, 94329

Vancouver girl stars in new "Oz" film

Fairuza Balk from Vancouver, British Columbia, a poised, freckle-faced nine-year-old, has landed the leading role — over thousands of other hopefuls across North America — of Dorothy in Walt Disney's feature film *Return to Oz*.



Canapress

Vancouver's Fairuza Balk captures top role.

Fairuza was among the final 12 selected from 269 girls between nine and 13 who auditioned for the part after an extensive search throughout the United States and Canada. She was then invited to fly to Los Angeles in November to audition for the role made famous by an older and taller Judy Garland.

Filming of the new *Oz* film begins shortly in England and should take four-and-a-half months. The movie will be a compilation and reinterpretation of Frank Baum's *Oz* books written after *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, which was published in 1900. It was the book that the 1925 silent movie and the 1939 MGM classic film were based upon.

Talking Dirty, a comedy by Vancouver, British Columbia writer Sherman Snukal, captured the \$5 000 Floyd S. Chalmers Award for the best Canadian Play performed in Toronto in 1983. Jim Betts of Toronto took first prize of \$1 500 for his play *Mystery of the Oak Island Treasure* in the best Children's Play category.

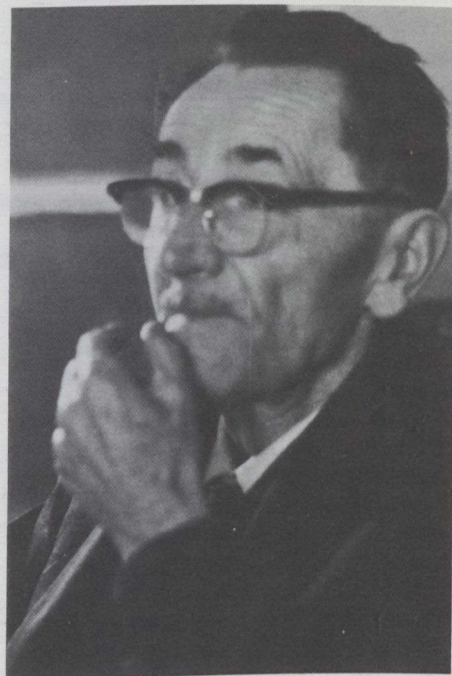
Comic strip creators featured in NFB documentary

Two new National Film Board (NFB) profiles featuring comic strip cartoonist Lynn Johnston and Ukrainian artist Jacob Maydanyk were shown recently on the CBC-TV network.

In *See You in the Funny Papers*, 36-year-old Lynn Johnston, creator of one of North America's favourite comic strips, *For Better or for Worse*, talks candidly about the difficulties of juggling fame and fortune with her role as wife and mother. Her syndicated comic strip, based on the daily activities of her own family, is carried in 500 newspapers in ten countries.

Full of Johnston's down-to-earth wit and charm, the film cuts back and forth from her hectic home life in Lynn Lake, Manitoba to her life as a public figure coping with inquisitive TV talk show hosts and crowded lecture halls. The film is directed by NFB filmmaker Grant Munro.

Laughter in my Soul, the second film profile, looks at 90-year-old Jacob Maydanyk, one of the first wave of Ukrainian immigrants who settled in the Canadian West in the early part of this century. Painter, satirist, publisher and teacher, Jacob Maydanyk created a satirical cartoon character named Shteeff Tabachniuk. Shteeff, who was Archie Bunker and Laurel and Hardy rolled into one, quickly



NFB, S-18094

Ukrainian artist Jacob Maydanyk.

became a Ukrainian folk hero. The film also chronicles the experiences of the first Ukrainian settlers as they adjusted to a new culture. *Laughter in my Soul* is narrated by John Colicas and directed by Halya Kuchmij.



NFB, S-18200

Cartoonist Lynn Johnston (centre) working with National Film Board director Grant Munro (left) and film editor Judith Merritt (right).

News briefs

Barney Danson, Canada's Minister of National Defence from 1976-1979, has been named Consul General to Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Danson was elected federal Liberal member of Parliament for York North in 1968. He served as parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister (1970-72) and vice chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs and National Defence (1972-74). He was Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Housing) in 1974, and in 1976 was named Minister of National Defence. Since 1979 he has been president of Dash-Air Incorporated and chairman and director of de Havilland Aircraft of Canada.

Ken Taylor, Canada's departing Consul General in New York, is the first recipient of the America's Society Medal, awarded for distinguished service in the field of Canadian-US relations. The 49-year-old diplomat, who is leaving after three years at his post, first gained public notice for his role in the rescue of six US diplomats during the 1979 hostage crisis in Iran.

Mark Bentz of Vancouver, British Columbia, the Canadian disabled ski team's youngest skier, won the men's downhill for the partially sighted at the Winter World Disabled Games in Innsbruck. Bentz, 16, a late addition to the team, beat teammate Uli Rompel of Calgary, Alberta by two seconds. Rompel, 40, is the Canadian team's oldest skier. August Hofer of Austria placed third, three seconds behind Rompel.

Seven Canadian hotels were given Five Diamond ratings in 1983, the highest possible award from the American Automobile Association (AAA). The awards are given for superiority in guest facilities, services and atmosphere. Canadian winners, among only 47 hotels and resorts throughout North America, are: Hôtel Bonaventure, Quatre-Saisons and the Ritz-Carlton in Montreal; The Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto; The Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver and Westin Bayshore in Vancouver.

Cansult Limited of Toronto, a firm of consulting engineers and planners, has been chosen to design 200 kilometres of sanitary sewers in Amman, Jordan. The firm is already well-established in the Middle East with projects currently under way in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Iraq and Lebanon. This is Cansult's first project in Jordan.

Wind-chill surfer



Dan Sullivan braves below-zero temperatures to try out a windsurfer with skis on Britannia Bay, near Ottawa.

Northern Telecom Ltd. of Mississauga, Ontario and Alberta Government Telephones (AGT) have signed an agreement for the joint development of high-technology, optical fibre products and systems in Alberta. AGT will participate directly in the conception and application stages of new fibre optics telecommunications products. The first program under the agreement is an optical fibre telecommunications system being developed at Bell-Northern Research laboratories in Edmonton. The system, capable of carrying three times the information load of previous products over the same amount of actual fibre, will be field-tested in Alberta.

Gaetan Boucher of Ste-Foy, Quebec captured the gold medal in the men's 1 000-metre event at an international speed skating competition held recently in Inzell, West Germany. Boucher, who won a silver medal in the 500-metre event, was clocked in one minute 14.81 seconds. Akira Kuroiwa of Japan, who beat Boucher for the 500-metre gold by 30 one-hundredths of a second, was second in 1:16.11.

Canada will work with the United States in a scientific program of ocean drilling to probe beneath the sea floor, according to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Britain, Japan, West Germany and France are expected to join the project. Designed to gather geoscientific information, the drilling phase of the project is expected to start next fall and move to the Labrador Sea in 1985. The knowledge gained will contribute to an understanding of the geology of the Labrador Sea and aid Canada in the search for hydrocarbons off the east coast.

Steve Podborski skied to victory recently to win the seventh World Cup downhill ski race of the season. It was his third consecutive win on the Kreuzleck Kandahar in West Germany's Garmisch-Partenkirchen. He set a course record there in 1981 and won again in 1982.

A co-operative agreement to create a Teacher Micro-Computer Resource Centre at York University in Toronto has been reached by York University and IBM Canada Ltd., also of Toronto. The centre will develop guidelines for testing, evaluation and use of computer software and hardware in teaching. In a later phase, a database of information about existing microcomputer courseware will be established.

The dogs were in good voice recently in Victoria, British Columbia, as a gentleman named Kirk Nurock performed the Canadian premiere of his *Sonata for Piano and Dog* with the Victoria Symphony. He describes his music as "cross-species communication". In the final movement he, three dogs and the dogs' owners all crooned together in shaggy harmony. Symphony officials, however, turned down as inappropriate the suggestion that the audience be encouraged to yelp along.

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