

# Canada Weekly

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Volume 9, No. 31  
September 9, 1981

## Wood research big business for non-profit Canadian organization

Research and development for the vast forest products industry in Canada and throughout the world requires work in more than a dozen scientific disciplines.

Forintek Canada Corporation draws upon more than 65 years of experience as the Canadian government wood products research agency, to create and develop new products and processes for the following industry sectors: sawmilling, plywood and wood composites, housing, furniture and secondary manufacturing, packaging, treating, wood chemicals and adhesives.

A private non-profit corporation since 1979, Forintek employs a staff of 250. Many of its scientists and engineers are renowned leaders in their fields. The team includes biologists, microbiologists, entomologists, chemists, physicists, engineers, machinists, electricians, statisticians and economists. In Forintek's Ottawa and

Vancouver laboratories, the combination of facilities and expertise provides the means for innovation in the multifaceted wood products industry.

A fundamental motivation in Forintek's research programs is optimum resource utilization. In Canada, as well as in many other countries with substantial forest resources, appropriate and economical means of utilization are essential to the industry's prosperity. Effective utilization must take into account the constraints imposed by the characteristics of the resource and the market. In Canada and abroad, Forintek has carried out laboratory and commercial studies relating to utilization. These have included resource evaluation, development of new products and manufacturing processes and product testing.

### Buildings of sugar cane rind

Forintek recently undertook a project for the Canadian International Development Agency in Barbados. The company developed a process for making composite panels and lumber from sugar cane rind. Various panel and lumber products made in the laboratory and in plant trials were tested and evaluated. Also included in this project were the development of compatible systems for protection of the finished product against biodeterioration and the development of suitable surface coatings.

Forintek supervised the construction of two specially designed experimental houses in Barbados made entirely from sugar cane rind building materials. These houses have, so far, withstood the rigours of hurricane Alan without damage. By extension, Forintek researchers are excited about the application of composites technology to other fibrous resources including rice husks, peanut shells and bamboo.

### Resource Evaluation

Forintek has carried out studies on the utilization of high density Canadian hard-

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Robert Baillargeon

Forintek's culture collection contains more than 2,000 micro-organisms used in wood protection and biotechnological research.



External Affairs  
Canada

Affaires extérieures  
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*A researcher examines residue wood chips such as are produced in most mills. These residues could be used in biomass gasification to produce fuel such as methane.*

woods like red maple, white birch and beech. These species represent a valuable, largely untapped resource. They make up substantial portions of the eastern Canadian mixed forest stands which predominate in southern locations close to established transportation and markets. Forintek has studied the use of these species in the manufacture of waferboard. These intolerant hardwoods can be used in combination with poplar (the conventional raw material for waferboard manufacture) in proportions up to 60 per cent without any adverse effects on processing conditions or product properties.

Poplar has also been studied and evaluated at Forintek, particularly the new fast-growing clones developed in genetic and silviculture research programs of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

#### **Processing innovation**

New and improved manufacturing processes developed at Forintek result in greater productivity and consequently in better resource utilization. It has, for instance, pioneered a novel system for cutting lumber with a knife blade rather than a saw. The lumber slicer, as it is called, is operated with the application of lateral pressure on the wood opposite the knife allowing the knife to slice the wood without splitting or bending. This system has a number of advantages, the most important being the elimination of

sawdust. This loss due to sawdust amounts to between 3 and 10 per cent of lumber production. The lumber slicer is currently undergoing commercial trials.

Forintek has played an active role in the establishment of particleboard and waferboard industry by developing new or improved manufacturing processes and in product testing and evaluation.

#### **Wood-based energy**

The company is also studying a variety of processes for converting wood to gas and liquid fuels; in order to make wood-based energy more efficient and economical.

Company researchers are working on techniques that produce low and medium BTU gas which can also be used as a synthesis gas for the production of methanol. In Forintek's microbiology and chemistry sections, researchers are investigating conversion of wood cellulose to glucose for fermentation to ethyl alcohol.

The product testing and evaluation services provided by Forintek are vital in securing a place in domestic and international markets for new wood products. Forintek carries out standard testing procedures for manufacturers and for codes and standards agencies. These testing services are valuable to countries wishing to export their manufactured wood products. Forintek staff are members of Canadian, American and other national and international technical committees of product standards agencies helping to set internationally accepted

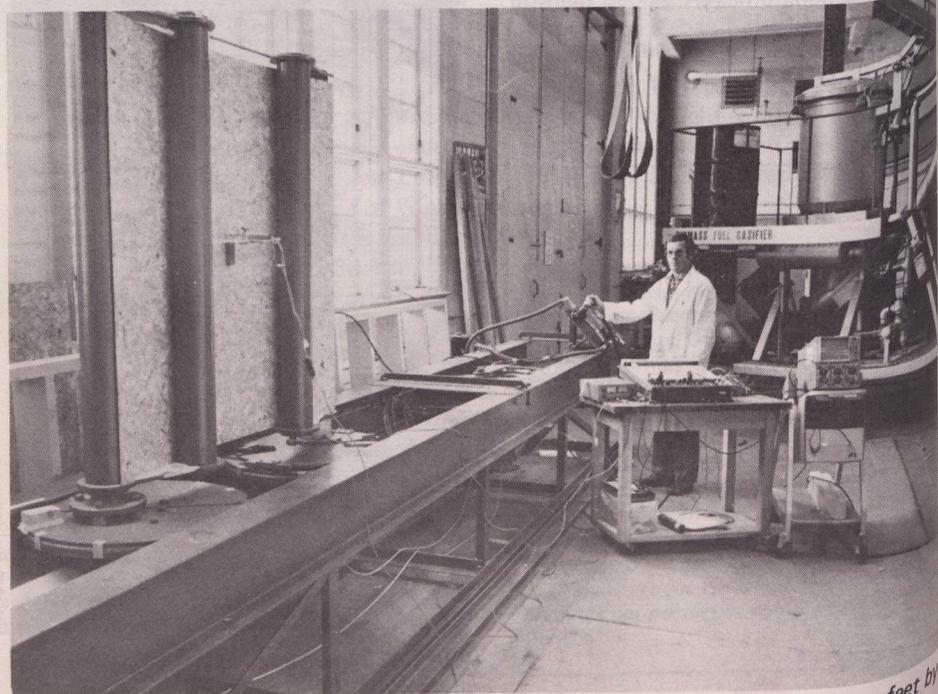


*A blazed tree is dated by worker by counting its rings.*

standards of performance for wood products.

For further information concerning services offered by Forintek, contact: Peter B. Macfarlane, President, Forintek Canada Corporation, 6620 N.W. Marine Drive, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6T 1X2.

*(By Jean Bridge, Canada Commerce, February 1981.)*



*A large-scale bending machine, that can bend pieces of wood measuring four feet by eight feet, is used to test a piece of particle board.*

## Commission calls for change in newspaper ownership

Federal legislation is required to curb concentration of ownership and ensure continuing editorial freedom for Canada's daily newspapers, according to the report of the Royal Commission on Newspapers.

The Royal Commission was set up after the simultaneous closing last August of two newspapers, the *Ottawa Journal*, owned by the Thomson chain and the *Winnipeg Free Press*, owned by Southam Incorporated. The three-man commission was headed by Thomas Kent, former *Winnipeg Free Press* editor and current dean of administrative studies at Dalhousie University. The other members of the commission were Borden Spears, former *Toronto Star* senior editor, and Laurent Picard, former Canadian Broadcasting Corporation president.

The 300-page report was the culmination of nine months of work that included 30 days of public hearings in 13 Canadian cities. In their report the commissioners maintained: "Freedom of the press is not a property right of owners. It is a right of the people." To this end the report recommended new legislation that would place limits on the number of newspapers a chain could own and restrict a chain's business ventures in areas other than newspapers.

### Guidelines for owners

Reacting to what it termed "a decade of wrenching change" in Canada's newspaper industry, the inquiry, which cost \$3.1 million, called for a broad range of measures to be taken by the federal government under the umbrella of a Canada Newspaper Act.

The act would set out strict guidelines governing the ownership and sale of daily newspapers; provide special capital cost allowances for the purchase by individuals of up to 5 per cent of the shares of a company that had bought a newspaper; and require 60 days public notice before the closing of any newspaper.

The report upholds the principle that the press must be free of undue government interference but argues that "freedom requires not only the absence of government shackles but also the affirmative action of law to protect society against the chains that its powerful minorities may impose on others."

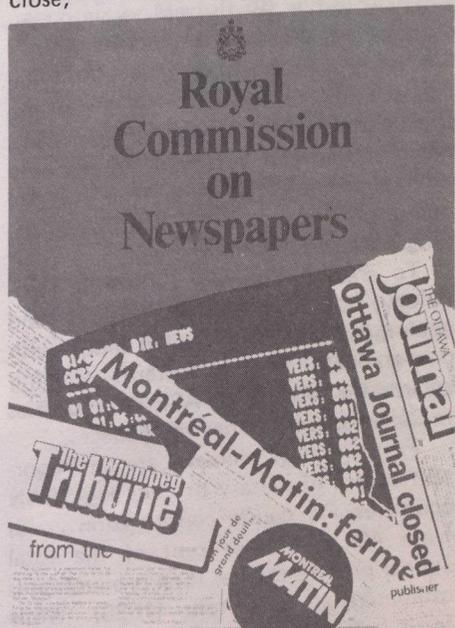
There are 117 dailies in Canada and 88 are owned by groups. Three chains control nine-tenths of French-language cir-

culation in Canada while another three lay claim to two-thirds of English-language circulation. In seven provinces — all but Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia — at least two of every three daily papers sold are produced by a single company or conglomerate.

### Highlights of the report

Some of the major recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Newspapers were:

- creation of a Canada Newspaper Act that would remove some of the strength of newspaper chains;
- having large chains such as Thomson Newspapers Limited and Southam Incorporated make some divestments;
- forbidding ownership of newspapers and weeklies in the same circulation area;
- prohibiting creation or enlargement of chains larger than five newspapers, with more than 270,000 daily circulation or with newspapers that are geographically close;



### It's been 90 great years!

- making newspapers with editorial expenses less than the industry average pay a surtax of 25 per cent of the deficiency;
- awarding newspapers with editorial expenses above the national average a tax credit of 25 per cent of the deficiency;
- providing capital cost allowances for purchase of up to five per cent of a newspaper's shares to encourage widespread ownership of newspaper shares;
- establishing a Press Rights Panel, within the Human Rights Commission to moni-

tor commission proposals and act as a press ombudsman;

- encouraging more voluntary press councils, newspaper ombudsmen and support for journalism schools;
- creating a national journalism training institute;
- appointing many editors-in-chief under contract and making annual public reports of their stewardship; and
- giving grants to news services to expand and improve their coverage.

## Energy legislation proposed

The federal government has introduced proposals designed to give legislative effect to a number of elements of the government's National Energy Program (NEP).

The draft Bill, called the Energy Security Act, reflects the goals of the NEP namely: to establish the basis for Canadians to gain control of their energy future through security of supply and eventual independence from the world oil market; to offer to all Canadians the opportunity to participate in the energy industry and to share in the benefits of industry expansion; and to establish a petroleum pricing and revenue-sharing system that recognizes the requirement of fairness to all Canadians.

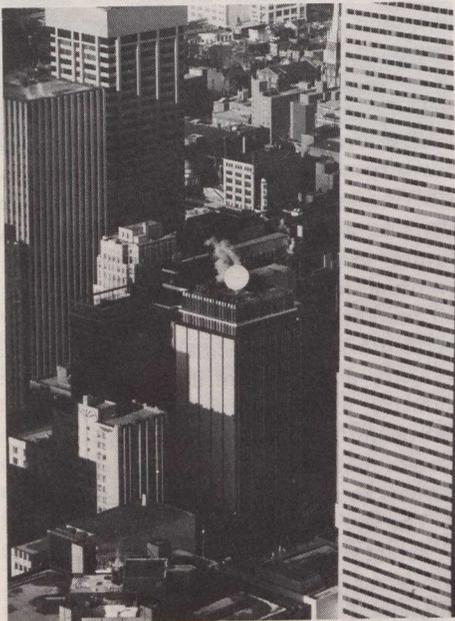
The Bill is intended to:

- establish a new incentive program to encourage petroleum exploration and development;
- establish the legislative framework for guidelines concerning Canadian ownership and control, which, among other applications, will be applied to those seeking to qualify for petroleum incentive grants;
- allow the government to collect information in accordance with the objectives of the NEP;
- authorize the capital necessary to expand the role of Petro-Canada and establish a Canadian ownership account to help finance acquisition; and
- redefine the jurisdiction of the National Energy Board in relation to oil and gas export prices and enable the Board to exercise regulatory control over interprovincial power lines which are designated as falling under its jurisdiction. Expropriation powers for designated interprovincial and international power lines are also included in the amendments; these latter provisions will provide the same treatment for power lines as is currently accorded pipelines.

## Business satellite network planned

The TransCanada Telephone System has announced plans to set up a national satellite business network which will combine voice, video and data communications.

The Integrated Satellite Business Network will use a technology called time division multiple access. The technology allows voice, data and video to be transmitted by way of satellite to a network of earth stations. The network, which will be available in 1983, is designed to meet the needs of large- and medium-size companies and organizations.



*The Integrated Satellite Business Network is intended to bring the transmission capabilities of satellites closer to the corporate communications user, even to the extent of earth stations on top of a company's own downtown office buildings.*

The network is expected to be a catalyst for a number of new communications services using satellite transmission. Services such as high-speed document transfer across the country, high-speed data transmission between computers and video conferencing on the user premises are envisioned.

The system will provide communications within Canada, between Canada and the United States as well as overseas via Teleglobe Canada. The major benefits of the satellite network to Canadian organizations include enhanced communications capabilities, increased diversity in available transmission paths and, in some situations, lower communications costs.

For a large user, an earth station may

be located on the customer's premises and dedicated to his use. If the user's traffic does not warrant a dedicated earth station, satellite service will be available by way of a centrally located earth station shared by several users, integrated with terrestrial facilities and operated by the TCTS member telephone company in that city.

A six-month field trial with the Bank of Nova Scotia will begin next year to assess the technology, equipment and potential applications of the system.

The test will evaluate the service for a number of financial applications, including remote data entry, voice telecommunications and on-line banking.

Earth stations in Toronto, Calgary and Halifax will transmit and receive the bank's integrated communications signals through Canada's *Anik* satellite.

## Canada-ASEAN fish project

Canada will provide a \$1.5-million grant to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as part of an agreement reached on a post-harvest technology fisheries project.

The project is aimed at increasing the use of available fish resources, improving the standard of living of local fishermen's communities and increasing the supply of high-protein food in the five ASEAN countries: Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

To enable a transfer of fishing technology, Canadian expert services and equipment will be provided along with post-graduate and short-term training awards for citizens of ASEAN countries in Canadian universities and colleges.

Fish and fish products are an important source of dietary protein in ASEAN countries. *Per capita* consumption varies from 40 to 65 per cent of the total animal protein intake; total production is estimated at 5.14 tons (1980). While fresh fish are generally preferred, a significant proportion of fish consumed is in the form of processed products, including traditional products such as salted or dried fish, fish sauce, paste and fermented products.

The project is part of a development co-operation program established by Canada and ASEAN which has expanded in the past 18 months. The Canada-ASEAN program includes other aid projects and also programs to foster industrial co-operation between private enterprises in Canada and in ASEAN countries.

## Aid to Caribbean double

Canada will double its total official development assistance to the Commonwealth Caribbean region during the next five years, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced.

Canada has pledged up to \$43.8 million in planned assistance to the Commonwealth Caribbean in 1981-82, comprising: Barbados, \$2.6 million; Belize, \$1.5 million; Guyana, \$7.5 million; Jamaica, \$10 million; Leeward and Windward Islands, \$11 million; Trinidad, \$1.2 million; other bilateral assistance including regional programs, \$700,000; Caribbean Development Bank, \$4.3 million; industrial co-operation, \$2 million; and non-governmental organizations, \$3 million.

Canadian official development assistance over the period 1982-87 is expected to total \$350 million, reaching an annual level of up to \$90 million by 1986-87. Within this total, provision is made for up to \$30 million for Guyana, up to \$41 million for Jamaica, up to \$44 million for the Leeward and Windward Islands and up to \$25 million for Barbados, Belize, Trinidad and other regional programs over the next three years.

In addition, Canada will continue to contribute to the region through the Caribbean Development Bank, CIDA's non-governmental organizations program and its industrial co-operation program.

## Study looks at settlement of Indo-chinese refugees

The federal government is conducting a three-year study of the 60,000 Indo-Chinese refugees who arrived in Canada in 1979-80.

Questionnaires were sent out at the beginning of this year to 4,000 of the estimated 15,000 refugee households across Canada. The purpose of the study is to determine the economic, social and geographic variables which contribute to successful settlement. The questionnaire, which is printed in five languages, includes questions on the family, employment, services available and living conditions.

The survey is expected to be used to help formulate future refugee policy and to provide improved guidelines for selecting and counselling refugees. The first questionnaire is expected to be followed by two others to be mailed out this fall and late in 1982.

## Challenger takes to the skies

Canadair's new executive jet, the *Challenger*, is proving to be a successful gamble by the company to provide the market with a plane suitable for the 1980s.

In the early 1970s, Canadair, a Canadian government corporation, took a calculated risk in deciding to build a completely new aircraft designed to fill a void in the executive jet market and replace outdated 1960s aircraft. As of January 1981, the company had sold 180 aircraft, with more than 100 orders being placed before the aircraft had received its certification.

For Canadair, the *Challenger* project could not have happened at a better time. The company was in an economic slump, with employment at an all-time low. When the go-ahead signal was given, it injected new life into the firm and, with the help of a \$70-million federal loan guarantee, Canadair set itself to the task.

Four years after approval of the concept, the firm's personnel had designed, tested and built a completely new executive jet aircraft.

### Basic features

What makes the *Challenger* so successful are three basic features: its wide body, advanced technology wings, and highly efficient Avco Lycoming engines. The new wing design, which is thicker than conventional ones, causes less drag and offers greater fuel capacity. The engines, referred to as high by-pass ratio engines, are quieter and more fuel efficient. Aircraft weight has also been kept down by



*A kitchenette in the Challenger.*

the extensive use of kevlar, an extremely strong yet light-weight organic fiber.

These factors together contribute to the 30 per cent increase in fuel efficiency, yet the aircraft flies faster (800 kilometres an hour or Mach 0.79) and farther (over 5,000 kilometres) than its competitors. In spite of all the measures taken to improve performance, passenger comfort has not been sacrificed. The wide body design allows much greater passenger comfort due to its unprecedented roominess, which includes stand-up headroom.

### Certification

Before the aircraft could actually be sold, it had to pass the certification requirements of Transport Canada, including 732 items of design and operational

safety, noise and emissions standards and reliability tests.

It was during one of many stall tests that *Challenger One* crashed, taking the life of the pilot and injuring the co-pilot. Investigators found that the accident was not caused by the aircraft itself, which was judged sound; rather, it was due to a malfunction of a releasing mechanism designed to disengage an experimental parachute, installed specifically for testing stall manoeuvres. The parachute is not part of the production configuration, but the aircraft is fitted with a duplicate stall protection system.

After the investigation, certification tests continued and Canadair received its Canadian type approval in the summer of 1980, after more than 800 flights and 1,500 hours flying time. Since Canadian regulations are basically the same as those of the American Federal Aviation Authority, U.S. type certification followed quickly.

(Article by Sadiq Hasnain in Science Dimension, 1981/1.)

## Survey shows Canadian computer industry on the rise

The Canadian computer industry has passed the \$4-billion mark in annual revenue and is now more than one-third Canadian-owned, according to a survey of more than 100 top companies conducted by Evans Research Corporation of Mississauga.

The latest figures, covering the industry across the country, show a record of growth that is ahead of the economy as a whole, and a major expansion in domestic ownership of computer companies.

### Rapid growth

In 1975, revenue of the industry was only \$1 billion, equivalent to 0.6 per cent of Canada's gross national product. The industry has grown by 17 to 25 per cent a year over the past five years, according to the survey, and it now accounts for more than 1.4 per cent of the GNP.

More than 1,000 smaller firms not included in the survey put the total revenue figure at \$4.06 billion, said Hugh O'Rourke, director of research for Evans Research.

Northern Telecom Limited of Montreal is included in the list for the first time. The one-quarter of the company's revenues accounted for by data processing operations puts Northern Telecom second only to IBM Canada Limited of Toronto



*The Challenger offers greater energy efficiency and passenger comfort.*

Canadair Ltd.

in the top companies list.

Northern Telecom's data processing revenue now accounts for \$568 million, compared with total revenue of \$2.05 billion, most of which comes from telecommunications products. The increase in the company's computer hardware activity is largely because of the acquisition of the U.S.-based Sycor Incorporated and Data 100 Corporation, which pushed the Canadian ownership figures to 35 per

cent from 23.1 per cent a year earlier.

IBM Canada's total domestic revenue showed a healthy 22.4 per cent increase, higher than the parent company's worldwide revenue growth of 14.7 per cent.

Nine new companies appeared on the list. The 109 companies surveyed had total revenue in fiscal 1980 of \$3.87 billion, an 18 per cent increase, which was slightly higher than the 17 per cent predicted by Evans Research a year ago.

## Botany subject of stamps

Two noted Canadian botanists and the *Floralies* in Montreal are the subjects of three postage stamps issued recently by Canada Post.

Frère Marie-Victorin was born Conrad Kirouac at Kingsley Falls, Quebec, in 1885. In 1901 he joined Les Frères des Ecoles chrétiennes, a Roman Catholic men's teaching order. He taught school while increasing his knowledge in botany, which he acquired largely by self-instruction. His scholarly reputation grew quickly, and in 1920 the University of Montreal hired him as a botany professor. Despite lifelong poor health, Frère Marie-Victorin did extensive field work, and became the



foremost Canadian botanist in the field of geographical distribution of plants. The Montreal Botanical Garden and the Botanical Institute of the University of Montreal were founded by him. He died in 1944.

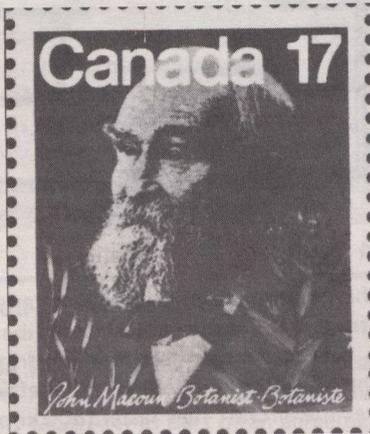
Born in Ireland in 1831, John Macoun came to Upper Canada in 1850 where he studied botany in his spare time, later becoming a professional botanist. Macoun's *Catalogue of Canadian Plants* "placed the study of systematic botany in Canada on sound footing". More than 100,000 of the plants Macoun collected are now in the National Herbarium in Ottawa. Macoun sometimes suffering great hardships during his field trips. His Peace River expedition of 1875 reduced him to a starva-

tion diet of moldy pemmican. Macoun visited the western plains in 1879 and 1880 and disproved the theory that this area was a desert, claiming that "the so-called arid country was one of unsurpassed fertility..." He died in 1920.

The botanist stamps were designed by Roger Hill of Toronto. The designs feature portraits of the individuals with a collage of dried plant specimens, as a symbol of their lifetime interest in the study of plants.

Last year Canada hosted *Les Floralies internationales de Montréal*, a floral exhibition. The outdoor garden on Ile Notre-Dame is now a permanent botanical exhibition. The *Floralies* will provide an opportunity for visitors to see not only landscaped gardens from many different countries but also a variety of Canadian landscapes, notably the northern tundra.

The stamp design features the Montreal Rose, a flower specially bred for *Les Floralies* and the City of Montreal by the Rosiériste Jean Gaujard of Lyons, France. The stamp, based on a photograph by Roméo Meloche, was designed by Jean-Pierre Beaudin, Jean Morin, and Tom Yokobina, all of Montreal.



## CNR plans to upgrade line

Canadian National Railways plans to spend \$500 million by 1990 to upgrade its 1,083-kilometre line between Prince Rupert and Red Pass Junction in British Columbia, where it joins the main CNR line to Vancouver, reports *Canadian Press*.

Major coal and grain terminals are planned for the north coast port of Prince Rupert. By 1995 "we should be well advanced with double tracking the line", said Ross Walker, CNR mountain region vice-president.

The bulk of investment in this decade will be concentrated in the years 1982 through 1985, with spending on heavier rail for much of the 748 kilometres of line between Prince George and Prince Rupert, the extension of sidings, improvement of signalling, purchase of rolling stock and provision of maintenance facilities.

This year the railway will spend \$12 million on its north line, which was opened in 1914.

The big push will come next year, in an effort to meet coal traffic to Prince Rupert from new mines being developed in the northeast of the province by Teck Corporation of Vancouver and Denison Mines Limited of Toronto.

As well as coal, there will be increased grain traffic. An eight-million-bushel elevator is being built at Prince Rupert to handle 3.5-million tons of grain a year, starting in 1984.

A 2.25-million-bushel elevator at Prince Rupert may be torn down or retained in service to handle speciality grain.

## Future electronic office system

Seven Canadian firms have merged to produce a new kind of electronic office system for the international market.

The coalition, called OCRA (Office Communications Research Association) is expected to produce a prototype of the office system for testing next year. It will include data transmission equipment, small business computers and other communications equipment. The firms comprising OCRA are: CNCP Telecommunications, Gandalf Data Communications Limited, Nabu Manufacturing Corporation, Telecable Laurentien, Ottawa and Skyline Cablevision and the Cable Telecommunications Research Institute.

## Canada wins seat on board of international theatre group

Canada has regained a seat on the governing body of the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People.

The seat will be held by Sara Lee Lewis, president of the Canadian branch of the association, who is administrator and a co-founder of Nova Scotia's Mermaid Theatre in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

Ms. Lewis said that Canada was voted to the position in recognition of the high profile that production for children and young people has in the theatre life of Canada and the international touring activities of both Canadian companies

and groups brought to this country from abroad by the federal government.

Lewis said she believed that, after lacking membership in the 11-member governing body for a term, Canada's return to it will mean greater opportunities for exchange of directorial personnel as well as continued company touring.

Mermaid Theatre, entering its tenth season, has used puppetry, songs and dances in addition to the spoken word to play to schools and other young people's audiences on tour across Canada and abroad, most frequently staging old Micmac Indian legends from this region.

## War art presented at the Canadian War Museum

An exhibition of more than 100 paintings representing five different aspects of active service in the Second World War were recently on display at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

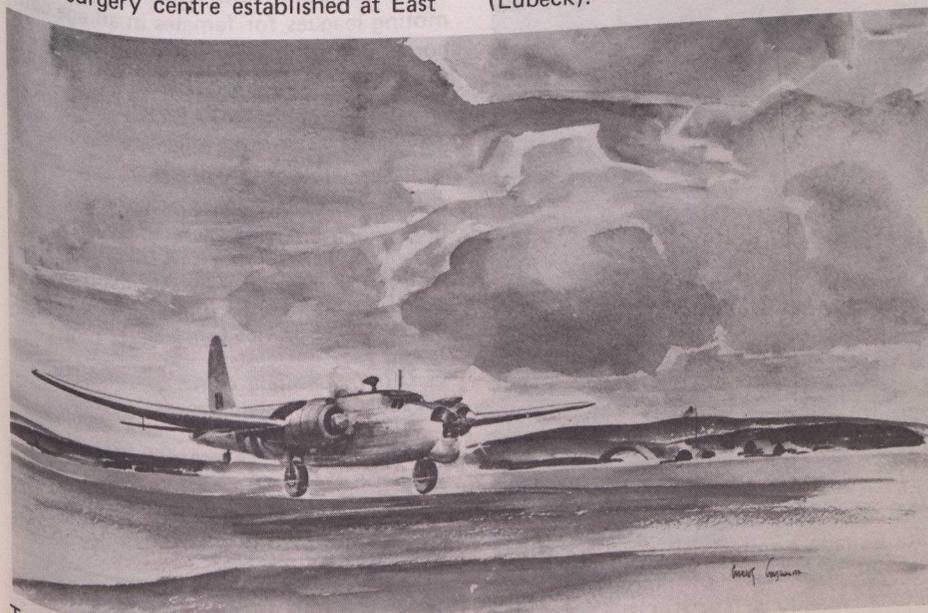
The exhibition *Four War Artists* featured works by Albert-Edouard Cloutier, an official Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) artist, who in 1945 captured the winter harshness of an isolated radar station on Brig Harbour Island off the shores of Labrador.

The works of another RCAF artist, Charles Goldhamer, covered two stages of his career as a war artist. The first depicted life with No. 407 Squadron while it was based at Chivenor, Devon, England. The second was a record of the advanced plastic surgery centre established at East

Grinstead, Sussex, England which included Canadian personnel.

The third artist, Ralph Malcolm Warner, was an official Australian war artist assigned to produce a record of the Royal Australian Air Force in Canada under the auspices of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. His works presented were part of an exhibition which travelled across Canada in 1979-80, courtesy of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, and under the auspices of the Canadian War Museum.

The fourth artist was Robert Buckham, who was not a war artist in the official sense. His works are sketches produced during his free time as a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft III (Sagan) and VIII B (Lübeck).



Take Off by Charles Goldhamer, an RCAF artist.

## NFB film wins in Los Angeles

The International Festival of Films for Children, held recently in Los Angeles, has given their "Ruby Slipper Award" for the best short film to the National Film Board of Canada's short animation *The Sweater* by Sheldon Cohen.

Produced in 1980 by David Verrall, Marrin Canell and Derek Lamb of the NFB's animation studio, *The Sweater* has been one of the most successful films produced by the board. It has been seen in commercial movie houses across Canada, and has already won a number of prizes at animation festivals in Canada.

The short film is based on a story by Roch Carrier and is narrated by the author. It illustrates Carrier's boyhood memory of idolizing the hockey hero Maurice Richard and the agonizing embarrassment of having to wear a Toronto Maple Leaf sweater because a mail order mix up sent the odious blue and white version instead of a new Canadian sweater with the famous "9" on the back.

## Festival Ottawa exhibits

The National Arts Centre's Festival Ottawa is presenting an exhibition of costumes and photos from two of its outstanding productions in the mezzanine lobby of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

## Canadian and U.S. performers

The exhibition, which runs until the end of this year's Metropolitan Opera season, features the costumes and performance photographs of Canadian and U.S. singers who have performed at both the Metropolitan Opera and Festival Ottawa.

The costumes being displayed are from the 1979 production *Cendrillon*, which was recently acclaimed in Paris (costumes designed by Suzanne Mess); and from 1978's production *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (designed by Michael Stennett). The costumes include the *Cendrillon* ball gown and wedding gown worn by Frederica von Stade, as well as those costumes worn by Tytania and Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A series of production photographs accompanies the display as well, showing memorable moments from these presentations. Festival Ottawa's costume and photo exhibition is being sponsored by the Canadian Consulate in New York City.

## News briefs

The federal government will provide funding to the Fédération des femmes canadiennes françaises, Canada's only national organization which represents francophone women outside Quebec. The government will contribute \$178,859 to the organization to help it co-ordinate its activities.

Disabled and elderly people living alone in Montreal will now have someone checking in on them every day as a result of an agreement between the Letter Carriers Union of Canada and the United Way group of charities. The postmen making their daily rounds will check up on shut-ins who register their addresses with local United Way affiliates. The arrangement, known as the letter carriers' alert system, has been in operation informally in a number of Canadian communities for several months. Under the agreement the union and the association commit themselves to extending the program everywhere in Canada where there is regular mail service.

Canadian wheat acreage is expected to total 30,117,000 this year, up 9.8 per cent from 27,422,200 last year, Statistics Canada reports. The federal agency said this year's wheat acreage will be the highest since the record year of 1967.

Dr. John Downing of the University



The schooner Bluenose II, Nova Scotia's seagoing ambassador, travelled this summer from its home port of Halifax to visit Quebec City and Toronto.

of Victoria in British Columbia has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors on the International Reading Association. The association is a non-profit organization devoted to the improvement of reading instruction and promotion of the lifetime reading habit among young people around the world.

Dome Petroleum Limited of Calgary has purchased all the shares of Davie Shipbuilding Limited of Lauzon, Quebec, one of the largest shipyards in Canada, for \$38.6 million. The acquisition includes Davie's Branch Lines shipping division, which operates a fleet of six small tankers — with a seventh on order at the shipyard — in St. Lawrence River and east coast trades.

Via Rail Canada Inc. of Montreal, which received federal subsidies of \$320.08 million last year, said in its annual report that profits were \$745,000 in the year ended December 31, up from \$422,000 the year before. Via, formed in 1977 to consolidate passenger rail services formerly operated by Canadian National Railways and CP Rail, carried 6.8 million paying passengers in 1980, up from 6.5 million the previous year.

Progas Limited of Calgary has received final approval from the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to export Alberta natural gas to four U.S. customers. Progas holds a Canadian export licence to sell a total of 602 billion cubic feet of gas to U.S. customers.

Canada's newsprint production capacity in 1981 will be 9.45 million metric tons, or 32.75 per cent of world capacity, and almost twice as much as the second-place United States, reports the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association. World newsprint demand in 1980 rose 3.2 per cent to 25.6 million tons, compared with a demand increase of 4.4 per cent in 1979.

Three of British Columbia's largest credit unions have announced formation of a company to develop an electronic funds transfer network to deliver services such as banking by two-way TV and retail point-of-sales terminals. One of the first services to be offered will be to install automated teller machines within the credit union branches.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced three allocations totalling \$704,278 (U.S.) under a line of credit with Bank Leumi Le-Israel B.M. of Israel. The transactions involving Control Data Canada Limited will create or maintain 29 man-years of employment in Canada, mainly at Control Data Canada Limited.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has awarded scholarships totalling \$1.1 million to 72 graduate students in housing. The scholarships are awarded to students pursuing master's and doctoral degrees in the social, economic, technical, environmental, physical and management aspects of housing. Successful candidates this year will each receive a stipend of \$7,500. In addition, to the stipend, the scholarship includes payment of university tuition fees, a travel allowance and support for dependents.

The leather-back turtle and the small white lady's-slipper have been listed as endangered species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. J.A. Keith, chairman of the committee, also said that a species of willow and a plant called thrift have been listed as threatened and Ross's gull has been placed in the rare category.

Du Pont Canada Inc. of Montreal has entered into a licencing agreement with ICI Australia Limited under which ICI will build a polyethylene resins plant in Sydney, Australia. The plant will have capacity of 100,000 metric tons a year.

Ontario Hydro awarded contracts valued at more than \$36 million in April. The largest was a \$4.9-million contract awarded to Litton Systems Canada Limited of Toronto for a security monitoring system at the Bruce A nuclear generating station.

The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association has approved the establishment of a women's hockey council and has given it a seat on the CAHA board of directors. The association said it will aim at promoting leagues for females in all age categories and ultimately national championships for women. There are 16,000 females registered with provincial hockey associations.

Canada Weekly is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias de Canadá.

Canada 

ISSN 0384-2312