

# Canada Weekly

Ottawa  
Canada

Volume 11, No. 37  
October 19, 1983

Geneva Telecom 83 — a chance for  
Canada to shine, 1

Oil and gas exploration, 4

Quadrilateral trade talks, 4

Princess Margriet of the Netherlands  
returns to wartime birthplace, 4

Canadian TV seen in 80 countries, 5

New wood coating saves work, 5

Specially-trained dog provides ears  
for deaf mom, 5

Mini-computer calculates daily doses  
of insulin, 6

New gold coin has Canadian edge, 6

Yeast learns two-step, 6

News of the arts — music, exhibition, 7

News briefs, 8

## Geneva Telecom 83 — a chance for Canada to shine

Canadian companies will have the opportunity to seal their top reputation as leaders in the field of communications at the fourth World Telecommunications Exhibition — Telecom 83 — to be held at the Palais des Expositions et des Congrès in Geneva, Switzerland from October 26 to November 1. The show, held every four years, is considered to be the most prestigious international exhibition in telecommunications and electronics, attracting important visitors and buyers from many parts of the world.

Canadian capabilities, products and services, which have already earned international recognition for excellence, will be represented by some 25 companies covering a wide range of goods and services.

It is not surprising that Canada has risen to the forefront of the communications industry. With a country so vast — some 9 980 000 square kilometres and a

widely dispersed population — the development of an efficient communications network became increasingly important.

Canada had an early start in telecommunications. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in Canada in 1874; two years later the world's first long distance telephone call took place.

Today, with a population of almost 25 million, Canada has 14 million telephones in service and the fourth highest telephone density in the world. In the interest of even greater reliability and increased operating economies, the system is being rapidly converted to the digital mode.

### Canada in space

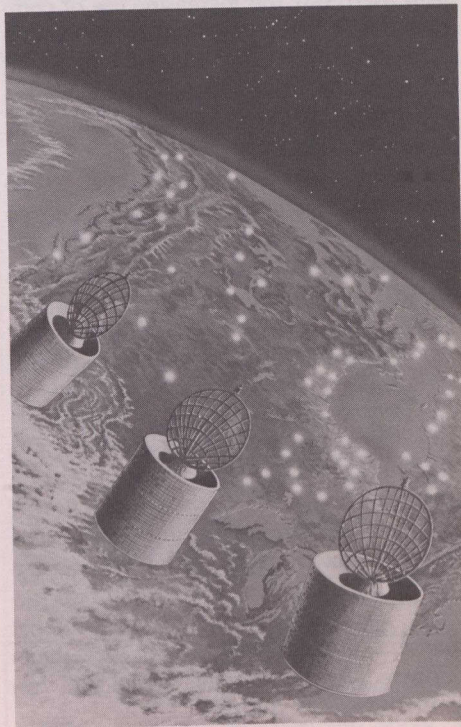
Telesat Canada was formed in 1969 to establish and operate a commercial system of satellite communications to serve all parts of Canada. *Anik A-1*, the world's first domestic satellite system, launched in 1972, could provide services to 10 million square kilometres. Similar satellites were launched in 1973, 1975, 1978, and the most recent, *Anik C-3* in November 1982.

There are now more than 100 Canadian manufactured satellite earth stations of about 14 types and sizes, ranging from large stations with 30-metre antennas to small transportable stations down to 1.2 metres. These provide such services as global television relay with local-area television distribution, telephone, computer-data transfer, and teletype.

Telesat Canada, with its extensive background, also provides consulting services to a number of countries.

Spar Aerospace, the Toronto-based firm that built the highly successful mechanical arm for the United States' space shuttle, recently signed a \$65-million contract to build solar energy panels for the *L-Sat*, a 50-metre long new generation communications satellite being built by three members of the European Space Agency for a 1986 launch.

Spar Aerospace was also selected



Artist's impression of Canada's Anik communications satellites.



External Affairs  
Canada

Affaires extérieures  
Canada

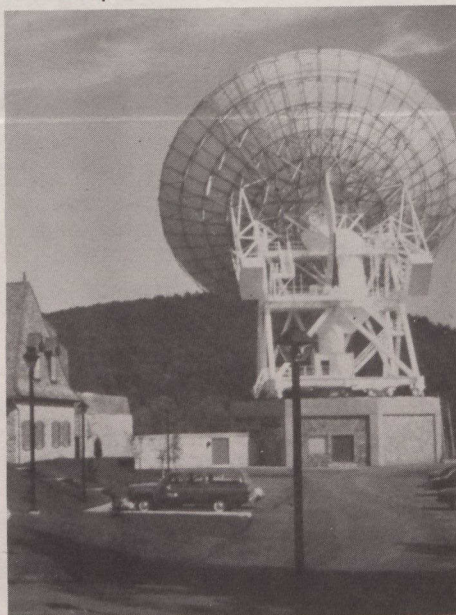


*Mitel Corporation will display a wide range of products at Telecom 83, from sets to systems, to management workstations.*

through an international competition, as the prime contractor to provide two communications satellites to the government of Brazil for their domestic satellite system. This \$150-million contract includes the ground control stations.

#### **Digital excellence**

In the early 1970s, Northern Telecom, in co-operation with Bell Northern



*Teleglobe Canada's satellite earth station in Weir, Quebec, is one of more than 100 Canadian-made earth stations.*

Research and Bell Canada, began developing digital switching and transmission systems. Northern Telecom was the first in the world to produce a complete family of fully digital switching and transmission systems.

(Previously, analogue systems had been used, but the increasing use of computers and "machine" communications dictated that digital signalling be used. In analogue transmission, signals are amplified; in digital transmission they are regenerated.)

Digital is now shaping the whole telecommunications industry. Canadian digital PABX equipment has won wide acceptance in international markets and two Canadian manufacturers of digital PABX's (Northern Telecom and Mitel) are among world leaders in this product.

#### **The electronic office**

Like other western countries Canada is in the midst of an information revolution and, in 1980, the federal government initiated field trials of integrated electronic office systems within its departments. The aim was also to develop services for national and international markets. About \$12 million has been budgeted for the project which will run until 1985.

Some 5 000 work stations used by professional and executive employees will

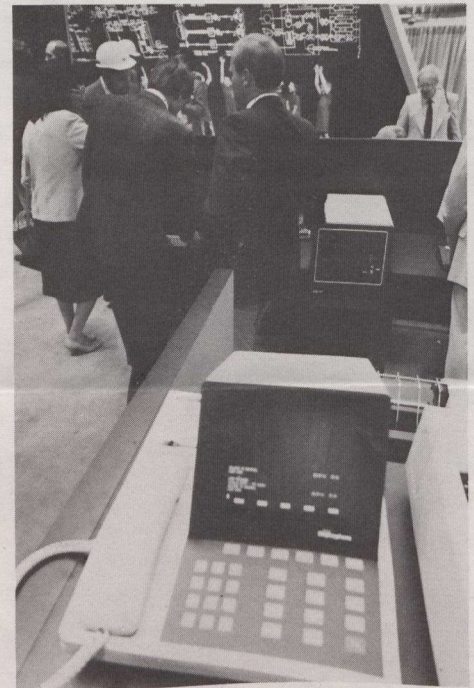
be established across Canada and they should make Canadians more aware of the potential of electronic office products, systems and services.

#### **World's first teletext**

In February 1983, Teleglobe Canada, a Crown company responsible for Canada's external communications services, announced it had inaugurated the world's first overseas teletext service, making it possible to transmit a business letter from Canada to West Germany in ten seconds. Teletext is a new service using computer terminals and transmitting data in digital form. Canada, West Germany and Sweden are the first countries to adopt the new system.

#### **Fibre optics**

Technology relating to fibre optics (optical fibres that carry light instead of electricity) has been used in Canada since 1976. A wide variety of field trials have been introduced throughout the country — from trunk to subscriber loop applications — where homes receive simultaneous transmission of telephony, data, television and videotex.



*Northern Telecom's displayphone, on exhibit at Telecom 83, is a highly advanced office product that allows integrated voice and data communications to be handled in one desk-top unit. It was the world's first commercial combined business telephone and data terminal. It is capable of transmitting, receiving and displaying information using a retractable keyboard and a video display screen.*

In the small community of Elie, Manitoba, some 150 households were connected by fibre optics, making the field trial the first for multi-use tests of fibre optics systems in a rural community.

The Saskatchewan Telephone Company began three years ago to install a 3 400 kilometre fibre optics broadband

with a much higher resolution than other available equipment. It has also shown flexibility and compatibility of data bases with different terminals and has a designed capacity for future expansion.

Like other videotex systems, Telidon has a slightly modified television set or display monitor, an interface decoder device, a telecommunications system and a central computer. Since Telidon has a microcomputer in all its terminals, it can fully exploit recent advances in computer graphics and telecom data technologies — making it uniquely suited to converting a television set into a highly advanced information tool.

#### Consulting services

Canadian telecommunications consultants are respected throughout the world. The largest Canadian consultant in this field, Bell Canada International, has provided international services and gained renown for its expertise during more than five years of work in Saudi Arabia.

Canadian experts offer a complete range of services: from consulting to managing turnkey operations; from initial basic assessment of an organization's needs to managing systems installations; to training local staff before turning over an efficiently operating network.

Since joining the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 1907, Canada has been committed to the idea of promoting international co-operation and the extension of international networks.

#### Participating Canadian companies at Telecom 83

Canada's capabilities, products and services will be represented by some 25 companies at Telecom 83 in Geneva, October 26 to November 1, 1983.

The many Canadian exhibits cover the telecommunications electronics gamut — from telephone switching systems, satellite communications and subscriber radio systems to fibreglass composite technology, microwave transmission systems, data communications products and thermoelectric remote power generators.

Four internationally-renowned companies are independent participants: Mitel Corporation; Northern Telecom; Teleglobe Canada; and Bell Canada International. The latter company is also exhibiting at Canada's National Stand, as are the following: A.E.I. Telecommunications (Canada) Limited; AEL Microtel Limited; Allcom Data Limited; Canadian General Electric Company Limited; Canadian Marconi Company; Croven Crystals; Develcon Electronics Ltd.; Department of Communications; Farinon Canada Limited; Gandalf Data Limited; Global Thermoelectric Power Systems Ltd.; Hermes Electronics Limited; Idacom Electronics Ltd.; Memotec Data Inc.; Novatel Communications Ltd.; Spar Aerospace Limited, Satellite & Aerospace Systems Division; SR Telecom Inc.; Glenayre Electronics Ltd. and Motorola Canada Limited.

For further information, please contact: Commercial Division, Canadian Embassy, Kirchenfeldstrasse 88, 3005 Berne, Switzerland. Tel: 44-63-81. Telex: (Destination code 45) 32489 (DMCNB CH).



*The Aurora 400 mobile telephone from Novatel Communications, a company specializing in the manufacture of cellular mobile telephone systems.*

network linking a number of communities in the province. The digital system is the world's longest commercial fibre optics network and provides full voice and data services, as well as cable television signals to 52 communities.

#### Data networks

Canada initiated the first dedicated coaxial data network, a 12-tube cable linking Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. The country has had its own national digital-based data networks since 1973 when Dataroute was introduced into the Trans-Canada Telephone System. Introduction of the Info switch and Datapac followed in 1977. The systems, which cover the width of Canada, link into United States systems and are part of an integrated network for voice data and visual services.

#### Videotex-Telidon

In 1978 Canada's Department of Communications announced the development of Telidon, an advanced videotex terminal capable of producing images



*Northern Telecom Limited's DMS-100 (digital multiplex system) switching machine featured in the corporation's exhibit at Telecom 83. This is the first appearance of a working model of this large central office machine at a trade exposition. It has a capacity of up to 100 000 lines and will be used to demonstrate the capabilities of the machine as it relates to various systems in Integrated Business Networks, integrated voice and data terminals, Autovon military network, Maintenance and Administration Positions (MAP) and Traffic Operator Position Systems (TOPS).*

## Oil and gas exploration

A new Canadian-controlled company, ATS Exploration Limited, has been formed to undertake exploration for oil and gas on Canada lands in the North and off the east coast, Energy Minister Jean Chrétien and R.D. Southern, president and chief executive office of ATCO Ltd. have announced.

ATCO, a broadly diversified Canadian company with extensive operations in the petroleum industry, and Sun Life Assurance Company each hold 37.5 per cent of the voting shares in the new company, with Texaco Canada Resources Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Texaco Canada Inc., holding the balance.

Mr. Chrétien said that establishment of the company will result in extensive participation by Canadians in exploration, both in the North and off the east coast. "An important aim of federal energy policy is to encourage greater Canadian participation in oil and gas exploration and development. This agreement is welcome on two counts because it not only increases Canadian participation, but marks the entry of a significant new Canadian company into frontier exploration and development."

## Quadrilateral trade talks

Ways of maintaining and strengthening the international trading system were reviewed at a meeting of Canadian, European Community, Japanese and United States trade ministers in Ottawa, September 26 and 27.

The meeting was chaired by the Canadian Minister of State (International Trade) Gerald Regan and was attended by US Ambassador William E. Brock, Vice-President and Commissioner for External Relations of the Commission of the European Community Wilhelm Haferkamp, and Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry Sosuke Uno.

The Ottawa meeting provided an opportunity for ministers to review the general trade situation. Prospects and possibilities for dismantling trade barriers and for making further progress in trade liberalization were discussed. This included ways of further strengthening the various codes negotiated in the Tokyo Round and means of providing for the transparency of safeguard actions not subject to the requirements of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

## Princess Margriet of the Netherlands returns to wartime birthplace



Princess Margriet of the Netherlands (left) is welcomed by Speaker of the House of Commons Jeanne Sauv e as she enters the Parliament buildings.

Princess Margriet of the Netherlands made a nostalgic return to Ottawa, her wartime birthplace, during an official five-day visit to Canada from September 27 to October 2.

The 40-year-old daughter of Princess Juliana, later Queen, was born in the Ottawa Civic Hospital which was declared Netherlands territory for the historic first birth of a royal baby in Canada.

Princess Juliana named her third daughter after the marguerite, the daisy used as a symbol by Dutch resistance fighters while their country was occupied by the Nazis.

Princess Juliana sought refuge in Canada in 1940 when her homeland was overrun, leaving her husband Prince Bernard in England to fight with Netherlands forces.

She repaid Ottawa for the hospitality with thousands of Dutch tulips that bloom throughout the national capital every spring.

After the royal family returned home in 1945, Princess Margriet made several

official and unofficial visits to Canada, having developed an interest in the Arctic.

Her commoner husband Pieter van Vollenhoven produced a television documentary on the 1974 North American dogsled championships and a second documentary two years later on national parks.

Prior to their arrival in Ottawa, the Princess and her husband spent two days in Quebec City as guests of Governor General Edward Schreyer and former members of the Royal 22nd Regiment who helped liberate her homeland.

From Ottawa, they travelled to Toronto where the Princess opened an exhibition of Dutch paintings at the Art Gallery of Ontario. She also attended a ground-breaking ceremony at the Holland Christian Homes in Brampton, a retirement home outside Toronto. Many of the inhabitants belong to the community of nearly half a million Canadians of Dutch origin who emigrated to Canada after the war.

## Canadian TV seen in 80 countries

Canadian TV and film productions are now a \$20-million annual export industry, according to a program exporter.

The US Navy will soon be watching Canadian Broadcasting Corporation programs, and in some Southeast Asia countries a Calgary-produced program called *Magic Palace* has challenged *Dallas* for the No. 1 rating.

Canadian shows are now featured in about 80 countries. Britain has been a prime market, but government regulations hold imports to 14 per cent of air time. Continental Europe may have the best potential, because state monopolies have been joined by private networks, cable companies and pay TV, and all are expanding from evenings-only into daytime programming also. In the United States, Home Box Office needs 450 movies a year, but Hollywood produces only about 200.

## New wood coating saves work

If your home's wood cladding has a clear coating, chances are you will have to refinish it five times over the next 20 years. These odds will improve 50 per cent, however, if a new coating developed at the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) is marketed.

The finish will last half again as long as the most durable phenolic varnish now available. That should save the average homeowner one complete exterior re-finishing every ten years.

H.E. Ashton and his colleagues at NRC's division of building research began their work on clear finishes by coating standard samples of wood with different commercial finishes, then monitoring them as they weathered outside. During these tests, Ashton's group also examined properties of finish components in the laboratory. Their goal was an improved coating: flexible, strong, unlikely to absorb water, and opaque to the ultraviolet light that makes a finish peel away.

The new coating provides an optimum balance of all these properties. Accelerated weathering tests show the new formula should extend the average time between recoatings from the current figure of four years to six.

NRC is now negotiating with the two largest Canadian-owned paint companies for licensing rights to the longer-lasting finish.

## Specially-trained dog provides ears for deaf mom

When the telephone rings in her Scarborough, Ontario home, Linda Barker cannot hear it. But her hearing-ear dog, Shaddow, can.

Linda Barker, 31, her 35-year-old husband, Walter and their two daughters, Nancy, 2 and Laura, 4, all suffer from varying degrees of congenital deafness. Before Shaddow came into their lives, she survived by her wits, fearing for her children's safety because she could not hear if they were in trouble. With Shaddow, says Mrs. Barker, "I feel secure at night."

### Limited hearing

"I have some limited hearing," Mrs. Barker explains. "But I can't hear the telephone ringing in the next room, or the children crying. If they need me at night, I don't wake up."

Shaddow reacts to sounds she cannot hear and "tells" her what to do. When the doorbell rings, Shaddow identifies the sound and runs to Mrs. Barker, puts a paw in her lap and urges her to follow to the door. The same practice goes for the telephone (Mrs. Barker can understand only voices she knows well), the children when they cry, or the smoke alarm.

The Barkers used to wake up with the aid of an alarm clock that flashed light onto their faces. Now, Shaddow reacts to the bell and does the wake-up service with face licks.

Shaddow's talents are the result of about six months of training by Hamilton-area kennel owner, Jacqueline Harbour, who devised the method in 1979. She is

recognized as the first person in Canada to train hearing-ear dogs.

"I watched my mother going deaf most of my life and I knew what she needed," Mrs. Harbour says. "So I trained a standard poodle for her. I knew she needed a dog to alert her to certain sounds."

Jacqueline Harbour has trained five dogs for deaf owners. All of her pupils are mixed breeds, most rescued from the Humane Society shelter.

"That's the best place to find a variety of mutts," Mrs. Harbour says. "I look for the exact opposite to a seeing-eye dog — small, outgoing, active, friendly. They are abandoned because they are difficult to handle, but with training, they're perfect for this work."

Mrs. Harbour says patience and affection go a long way when training hearing-ear dogs. Shaddow was trained to respond to one person, Linda Barker, although she does help the rest of the family.

### Orange leash

She follows her at all times and in public is led on a bright orange leash. Jacqueline Harbour hopes the leash will become a symbol for hearing-ear dogs, like a guide dog's harness, to alert the public that the owner is deaf. Mrs. Harbour has just placed Shaddow with the Barkers and is living with them through the first week to help with the adjustment. She says it costs about \$2 000 to train each dog, although she charges the family only \$150 to place the animal.

*(Article from The Toronto Star.)*



*It does not worry Linda Barker that she cannot hear the phone ring or her children crying because her "hearing-ear dog" does the listening for her. Shaddow is one of several trained by a kennel owner in Ancaster, Ontario to help the deaf.*

## Mini-computer calculates daily doses of insulin

A new concept developed at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto is designed to help diabetics stabilize their blood sugar.

Toronto bioengineer Michael Albisser, in collaboration with diabetic specialists, has developed a miniature computer — it looks like an ordinary calculator — which helps a diabetic calculate the correct insulin dosage to handle that day's food and exercise as smoothly as possible.

Specialists have warned, however, that while preliminary results of tests of Albisser's device are encouraging, more extensive trials are needed to prove the value of the machine.

Diabetes causes high sugar build-up in the blood due to failure of cells in the pancreas to produce sufficient insulin, a hormone that enables the body to use the glucose derived from food.

Some diabetics produce no insulin at all and depend on daily injections of insulin. A diabetic's greatest day-to-day problem is balancing daily food intake, exercise and insulin injections to try to keep the inevitable fluctuations in blood sugar levels as smooth as possible and as near the normal range as possible.

Many specialists believe that stabilizing blood sugar levels would help prevent diabetic complications such as disease of the heart and blood vessels, strokes, blindness and kidney failure.

Dr. Albisser said that about a year ago, he began investigating methods to "optimize insulin treatment for the diabetic using a needle and syringe, a reasonable number of injections a day and a reasonable mixture of insulins to achieve the best possible control".

He said the breakthrough was made possible by developments in technology and a "capillary blood glucose monitor" — a device that enables diabetics to measure glucose levels in a pinprick of blood from a finger.

The tiny computer is programmed with an individual's known characteristics, such as the rate at which he absorbs food and insulin.

It also assimilates information on meals, blood sugar level, whether the patient intends to consume additional carbohydrates, exercise planned and how soon the workout is to follow the meal. Then it recommends the appropriate insulin dose.

## New gold coin has Canadian edge

The first Canadian coin to have the word "Canada" marked on its edge has been issued by the Royal Canadian Mint. It commemorates the four-hundredth anniversary of the landing of Sir Humphrey Gilbert in St. John's, Newfoundland.



The Royal Canadian Mint's new \$100 gold coin, minted to commemorate the four-hundredth anniversary of St. John's, is the first in Canadian coinage to have the word "Canada" on its edge.

One side of the coin features a ship's anchor, a sixteenth-century sailing ship and the Cabot Tower on Signal Hill in St. John's. The obverse bears the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II.

The wording on the edge of the coin, usually referred to as "security lettering", was once used as a means of discouraging attempts at counterfeiting. Today it is regarded as a technique for enhancing the coin's esthetics and for adding interest.

### Presentation in London

In London, England on September 26, a special presentation was made of one of the coins to six-year-old Humphrey Gilbert, a direct descendant of the famous explorer. The occasion was a press conference at Canada House, London, when Mint vice-president Denis Cudahy announced that for the first time, the Mint would use direct mail as the means for selling and distributing its products in Britain.

Market research, said Mr. Cudahy, had indicated a strong interest in Britain for

Canadian collector coins. The Mint will use the services of PHS Mailings, near Gatwick in Surrey, from where all orders in Britain will be filled.

The 22-karat gold coin which costs \$310, can also be ordered from the Royal Canadian Mint, Post Office, Box 476, Station "A", Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. K1N 9H3.

## Yeast learns two-step

A team of researchers at the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) in Ottawa has come up with a process in which a yeast produces alcohol directly from starch.

In the current technology of alcohol production, the starch must first be digested into simple sugars by the addition of enzymes called amylases, which come from other organisms, before fermentation of the sugars by brewer's yeast into alcohol can occur. This pre-treatment step with amylases is costly and time-consuming.

The novel NRC process uses only one yeast, isolated from soil some 20 years ago by a team of researchers and very similar to brewer's yeast, to accomplish both steps. The new yeast, called *Schwanniomyces alluvius*, produces sufficient amounts of amylase enzymes to break down the starch into simple sugars, which it then ferments into alcohol.

The NRC team, under the direction of Dr. Charles V. Lusena, has studied the conditions under which the yeast is best able to produce the extracellular amylases and to ferment the broken-down starch to alcohol. The starch raw material can be obtained from a number of sources: grains, potato, cassava, and various other root crops. In Canada, the 10 per cent of these crops that spoil annually can now be used profitably rather than lost.

Besides starch as the starting material, the versatile yeast can convert other carbohydrates, such as inulin, a large sugar from the Jerusalem artichoke, a plant easily grown in Canada and yielding more than one crop a year. Certain small sugars from wood wastes can also provide useful fodder.

Further studies are underway to make the conversion of starch to alcohol with this yeast commercially feasible. The researchers also look to other uses for *S. alluvius*, such as the conversion of waste starch material to single-cell protein, and the commercial production of amylases.

## Toronto cellist releases three albums

Ofra Harnoy, the 18-year-old Toronto cellist who dazzled nearly 40 000 concertgoers in Cincinnati in early September with the *première* of a recently discovered Offenbach cello concerto, has three albums ready for release in the next few months.



CANAPRESS

Ofra Harnoy performs the world *première* Offenbach Concerto for Cello with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra at Woodland Mound Park in Cincinnati.

The Moss Music Group (MMG) is releasing an album this month featuring two Brahms cello sonatas and one with a collection of duets for cello and guitar with guitarist Norbert Kraft and Jeanne Baxtresser, principal flutists with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

MMG vice-president Julian Rice said that Ofra Harnoy's recording of the long-lost Offenbach *Concerto-rondo in G* for cello and orchestra will be released before Christmas.

Miss Harnoy gave the world *première* of the Offenbach work, written in 1850, with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO), under the baton of Erik Kunzel, the Toronto Symphony pops conductor.

Betty Kietz Krebs, the respected music critic for the Dayton (Ohio) *Daily News*, wrote that the highlight of the program was Ofra Harnoy's performance of the cello concerto.

"(It) is a virtuoso player's dream, bright, lively, tuneful. It calls for an abundance of technique. Miss Harnoy had

plenty of that," she said. "When she reached the closing pages she simply dazzled her audience with a display of nicely honed harmonics playing."

The Offenbach album, which was recorded with the CSO under Mr. Kunzel, also features the *premières* of four short orchestral works by Offenbach, Mr. Rice said. In November, Miss Harnoy will record two Haydn cello concertos for an album that will be released in early 1984.

Her last recording *Cello Encores*,

with her regular piano accompanist William Aide, was issued in November 1982 and sold 15 000 copies in Canada. The average classical release hits less than 1 000 in Canada.

That album is the third largest seller in Canada's classical music history. Glenn Gould's second interpretation of the *Goldberg Variations* sold "in excess of 30 000", says a spokesman for CBS Records. The next top recording was the *Best of Liona Boyd*.

## Artist combines scale models and film images in unique exhibit

As its first major event of the fall season, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts is presenting an exhibition of the work of contemporary artist Murray Favro from London, Ontario. The show *Murray Favro: A Retrospective* includes the artist's earliest paintings from the mid-1960s through to his present "projected reconstructions", consisting of white, three-dimensional scale models onto which film images of the real objects are projected. Numerous drawings which provide insights into Mr. Favro's working process are also on display.

Murray Favro was born in 1940 in Huntsville, Ontario where his father worked in a tannery. At the age of 16, he moved to London, Ontario to attend art

school. There he found a community of artists and writers supportive of regional viewpoints, artists such as Ron Martin and Greg Curnoe, with whom he formed the Nihilist Spasm Band, a crucial foundation of his aesthetic approach.

The Nihilist Spasm Band, in which everyone builds his own instruments and plays them however he wishes, sometimes achieving "real aural agony", has a Dadaist reference and represents to its artist members "an intuitive response to a situation, disregarding conventional, 'charted' interpretations". This approach is the key to Mr. Favro's art, his scaled-down visual "copies" of jet airplanes and pseudo-inventions, his bizarre zig-zag or flexible-necked electric guitars, his orni-



The Flying Flea (1976-77) made of plywood, wood, steel, cloth, glue, aircraft dope, varnish, paint, engine and wheels. (216x545x399 centimetres).

thopters and windmills. By 1968, he had moved into creating his own model jet, working from photographs without making drawings or calculating measurements.

In 1969, Mr. Favro's interest in the general principles of machine evolution led to his work with "projected reconstructions". These works, using the illusory effects of light rather than paint, included *Van Gogh's Room*, a construction made after a visit to the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam in 1973. This is a three-dimensional model of Van Gogh's two-dimensional painting, *Vincent's Room at Arles*, with further distortions in the flattening of the floor and subsequent adjustments in the tilt of bed and chair, so that a slide of the painting could be projected on it.

More recent constructions include *The Flying Flea*, an actual airplane model of wood and cloth, and *Sabre Jet*, a 55 per cent scale, as well as *Windmill Electric Generator* and a project for Mr. Favro's great-uncle's dream: a *Perpetual Motion Machine*.



*Van Gogh's Room (1973-74), a three-dimensional model of Van Gogh's two-dimensional painting Vincent's Room at Arles, with adjustments to allow a 35-millimetre slide of the painting to be projected on it.*

## News briefs

**Major industrialists** from many parts of the world will gather in Toronto October 27 at Ontario's Trade Horizon conference. Organized by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the conference is part of Ontario's contribution to the first Canada Export Trade Month this October. About 800 Ontario manufacturers and business people are expected to participate. Guest speakers for the event will be from India, Sweden, Colombia, Singapore and Canada.

**The Export Development Corporation** has approved export credits insurance and export financing transactions supporting potential export sales of \$321 million to 60 countries. Goods and services involved include wood and pulp products; construction, agricultural, automotive and aeronautical equipment; minerals, grains; rubber; underground transmission cable; variable depth sonar subsystems; steel rails; aircraft engines; goods and services for a dam project; teaching aid equipment and services; forged steel valves, and digital telecommunications equipment and related engineering services.

**The annual Canadian inflation rate** stayed at 5.5 per cent in August, for the second month in a row, according to Statistics Canada—slightly more than half the 10.5 per cent rate of August 1982. In August 1981 it fluctuated between 12

and 12.9 per cent. The Consumer Price Index rose to 118.5 in August from 117.9 in July, and 112.3 in August 1982. Base is 100, for 1981.

**J. Tuzo Wilson**, renowned geophysicist, has been appointed chancellor of York University, Toronto. Dr. Wilson, director-general of the Ontario Science Centre, is widely recognized for his modification and advancement of the theory of continental drift. Prior to joining the Ontario Science Centre, he was the principal of Erindale College and professor of geophysics at the University of Toronto.

**Peter M. Roberts**, former ambassador to Romania, has been named Canadian ambassador to the USSR. Mr. Roberts, originally from Calgary, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1955 and has served in Moscow, Hong Kong, Saigon, Washington and the Canadian mission to NATO, Brussels. From 1970 to 1973 he was Press Secretary to the Prime Minister and from 1973 to 1979 was Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Cultural Affairs, at the Department of the Secretary of State. He became ambassador to Romania in 1979.

**The federal government** is contributing \$11.4 million toward a new centre for training high-technology workers in Toronto. The centre, to be established at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, is scheduled to have an enrolment of 350 by the 1986-87 academic year. Students

will be trained in areas such as computer-assisted design and manufacturing, robotics, lasers and fibre optics. Ryerson is to contribute \$1.1 million to the total of \$12.5 million to be spent over the next three years.

**Ellis-Don Ltd.** of London, Ontario has been awarded the contract for construction of Canada Place at the Expo '86 world's fair in Vancouver, Canada Place Harbour Corp. president Kenneth Bream has announced. Canada Place will include the Canadian pavilion at Expo '86. The pavilion will be converted after the exposition to a trade and convention centre and cruise ship terminal.

*Canada Weekly* is published by the Public Affairs Branch, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to the editor.

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

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

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

Canada