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Telidon projects proving successful in Australia and at home

Canada's two-way television technology, Telidon, received its first public demonstration in Australia, while a number of organizations have been given grants by the Canadian government for developing the system across Canada.

Telidon is the two-way television and computer communications system developed by researchers at the Department of Communications in 1978 and is considered one of the most advanced technologies of its kind.

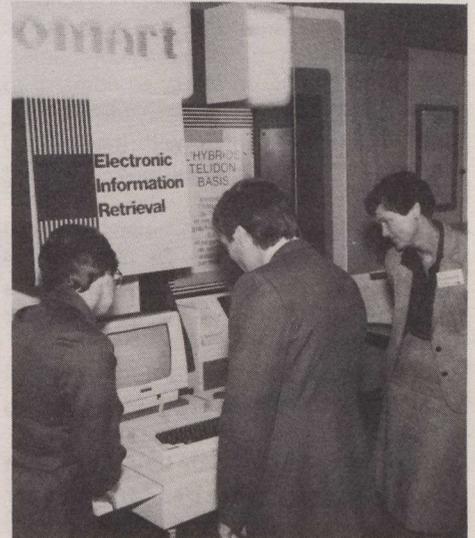
The first public demonstration of Videonet, a Telidon system developed by the Myer Emporium Limited of Melbourne, was given at the "Technology in the World of Travel and Tourism" symposium held in Sydney.

The system, which will be shown throughout Australia, will begin commercial operations in the near future. Videonet will use Telidon technology to provide business information and communications services to subscribers in Australia and other parts of the South Pacific.

Glen Davis, general manager of Videonet said the Myer system was "based on the best available technology in the world and is ideally suited to meet the information needs of users, information providers and advertisers". He said the tourism industry in Australia had been one of the first to appreciate the value of videotex and for this reason the tourism symposium was chosen for the unveiling of the system. The demonstration system will be shown to many other industry groups in coming months.

The demonstration of Videonet is evidence of Myer's commitment to the introduction of videotex in Australia, said Mr. Davis. "The quality of the system we have chosen after world-wide comparison will also become apparent during these demonstrations," he said.

Information providers for the Sydney demonstration included leading airlines, travel agents, resort operators and travel publishers. The superior display capability of the Videonet system offers a



Visitors view Telidon system being used in Manitoba as part of the Manitoba Telephone System's "Grassroots" project.

timely new medium for advertisers who want to display relevant information to customers who are making tour and travel decisions, said Mr. Davis.

The Videonet demonstration system was organized and developed by Systemhouse Limited of Ottawa. Other Canadian firms participating in the project included A.E.L. Microtel Limited of Burnaby, British Columbia; Dominion Directories Limited of Vancouver and Infomart of Toronto. The Canadian companies provided equipment on loan, software, personnel training and consulting services in data base design, system design and page creation. Some members of the Videotex Information Service Providers Association of Canada also donated pages to Videonet for demonstration purposes.

Canadian projects boosted

In Canada, the federal government has announced support for a number of projects to develop Telidon services. The funds are being provided under the Telidon industry investment stimulation program (IISP) to help the organizations buy terminals for

Department of Communications



External Affairs
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new Telidon systems. The recipients are required to purchase at least an equal number of terminals and to pay for content development, communications charges, salaries and other operating costs.

The Department of Communications has committed \$10.5 million to the program which is expected to lead to the purchase of more than 8 000 Telidon terminals by 1984 for use in 52 projects across Canada.

Seven Toronto area organizations signed agreements with the federal government under the program for funding totalling \$2.6 million. The agreements were signed with the following companies:

- Infomart will purchase equipment to help create the public access videotex system, Teleguide, which will have 2 000 terminals in public locations by April 1983;
- Faxtel Information Systems Limited will buy equipment to be used in the development of Marketfax, which allows users to analyse the performance of stocks and bonds;
- TVOntario will receive funds to support the expansion of its service and to develop a career guidance system;
- Sheridan College will buy equipment for new programs to train students for careers in the videotex industry;
- St. Clair Videotex Design Incorporated plans to develop Telidon applications for the advertising industry;
- Key Publishers Company will purchase equipment to be used in creating pages for advertisers and for its Teleguide service; and
- Toronto General Hospital plans to

provide Telidon-based consulting and diagnostic services.

In Montreal another three organizations have signed similar agreements with the federal government to further Telidon related projects. The University of Quebec, the Vidéotron group and Marlimage will receive more than \$1.3 million in grants.

The University will receive funding for its Project Agora which will provide an electronic community newspaper to 188 homes, 20 community centres and university laboratories in Montreal. The service will provide information in English, French and Italian to serve three special interest groups: the disabled, the Italian-Canadian community and the computer scientists at universities in the city.

The Telidon services provided by the Vidéotron group will allow more than 500 users to have selective access to more than 2 000 pages of information. In the near future when the system is totally interactive, they will be able to "converse" with each other by using their Telidon terminals.

The Marlimage company offers videotex page creation and related services on a commercial basis. It will use the government funds to expand its services by buying Telidon equipment including five page creation terminals.

Agricultural service

The federal government has also announced that the Manitoba Telephone System (MTS) will be given almost \$1 million to extend its Grassroots project and to develop a telecommunications monitoring system. Grassroots, which has been in

operation for more than a year, is the first commercial Telidon system in the world. It provides the agri-business community in southern Manitoba with 20 000 pages of specialized information, including current market prices, feed costs, grain futures, bank rates and weather forecasts.

MTS will now provide the service to the public and businesses throughout the province. It plans to add interactive services such as telebanking, teleshopping, electronic mail and computer-aided instruction. The telephone company has agreed to develop the first Telidon-compatible display phones.

A London, Ontario company, Videopress will also receive \$1.08 million in federal funding for the purchase of equipment to be used in its electronic advertising and information system. The Videopress system, developed as a joint venture by *The London Free Press* and Cableshare Incorporated, will be sold to owners and operators of shopping malls in Canada and the United States. The system uses a combination of touch-sensitive Telidon terminals and large-screen television monitors to display Telidon pages. Videopress booths provide the public with local news and weather, listings of community events, maps of shopping centres, entertainment information and advertising.

Innovative uses promoted

The federal government, under another Telidon incentives program, is funding projects by a number of non-profit groups which will develop Telidon services for consumers, the disabled, Inuit, native people and women.

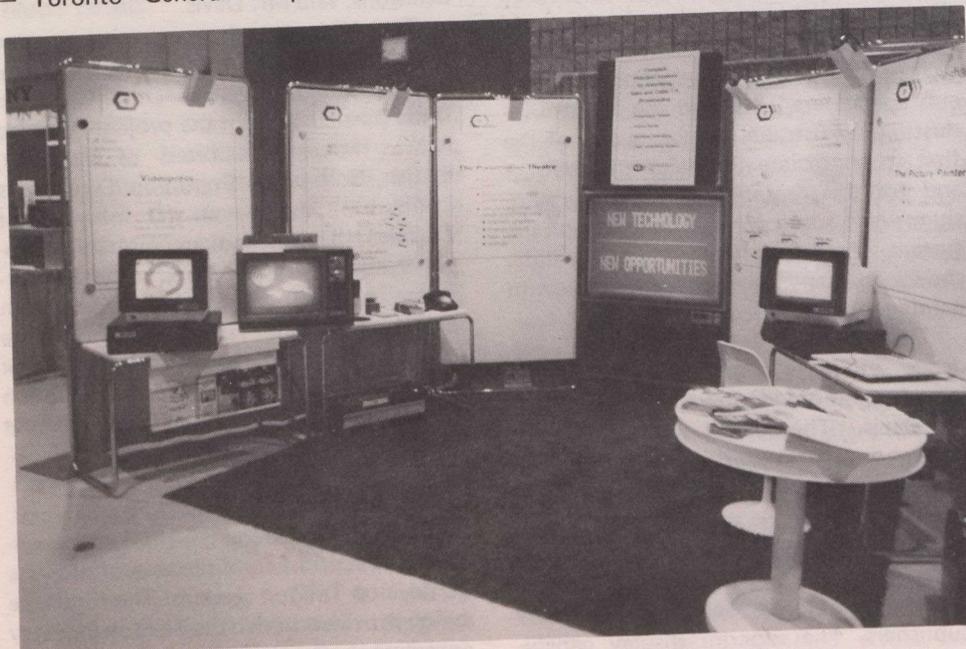
The Department of Communications has allocated \$1 million to the program to help such groups demonstrate innovative and practical ways to use Canada's two-way computer information system for special interest applications.

Twelve groups that have qualified under the program have proposed a number of new Telidon uses, ranging from consumer ratings of automobiles to native language information services and legal advice for women.

The organizations that have qualified for the grants are:

- the Advisory Council on the Status of Women of Saint John, New Brunswick has proposed a bilingual service providing information of interest to women;
- the University of Quebec in Montreal will also receive money under this program for Project Agora;
- the Automobile Protection Association

(Continued on P. 8)



Booths set-up by Videopress provide shoppers with information.

Gas exports to Germany

Two of Canada's largest energy companies have joined forces with two major West German firms on a multi-billion-dollar plan to export natural gas from the high Arctic to Europe.

The proposal, at an estimated cost of \$4 billion calls for 14 million cubic metres (500 million cubic feet) a day of natural gas exports from the King Christian Island area of the Arctic by tankers to new markets in West Germany.

Transcanada Pipelines Limited and Petro-Canada each will hold a one-third interest in the project with the remaining one-third to be held by Ruhrgas AG and Gelsenberg AG. Ruhrgas is West Germany's largest natural gas transmission company and Gelsenberg, a diversified energy company, is a major shareholder in Ruhrgas.

Radcliffe Latimer, president of Transcanada, the project leader, said the consortium would spend \$6 million to \$7 million over the next two years on a feasibility study covering design, engineering, financing and related issues.

He said the consortium plans to talk to Canadian gas producers with holdings in the King Christian Island area to involve them directly in the project.

Two key gas producers would be Dome Petroleum Limited of Calgary and Panarctic Oils Limited, a subsidiary of Petro-Canada.

Although the current consortium plans call for deliveries to West Germany, Wilbert Hopper, chairman of Petro-Canada, said that he plans to talk to representatives of other European countries, on the question of high Arctic gas exports.

Wheat sale to China

The Canadian Wheat Board has signed a new long-term agreement with China.

Under the \$2.25 billion agreement, China will purchase between 10.5 million and 12.6 million tonnes of Canadian wheat over a three-year period beginning August 1. The annual shipments will average 3.85 million tonnes.

The agreement replaces a previous three-year agreement, which expires July 31. About 8.5 million tonnes were shipped under that contract. China has been one of Canada's best customers for wheat for more than ten years, buying an average of 2.6 million tonnes a year.

Canada and Egypt sign nuclear co-operation agreement



From left to right: Israeli Ambassador Yeshayahu Anug, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza and Egyptian Ambassador Tahseen Basheer speak on the occasion of a luncheon held at the Egyptian ambassador's residence during Mr. Abaza's visit.

Canada and Egypt have signed a nuclear co-operation agreement. The accord was signed recently in Ottawa by Canadian Energy Minister Marc Lalonde and by Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza who was in Canada on a week-long visit.

The agreement provides for co-operation between the two countries on the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It envisages co-operation in such areas as the possible supply of CANDU reactors to Egypt, the supply of uranium to be used as fuel, the implementation of joint nuclear research projects and the application of nuclear energy to fields such as agriculture, industry and medicine. The agreement will facilitate exchanges of experts, technicians and specialists related to the development of nuclear energy as well as provide technical training.

Canada has developed a highly efficient, safe and dependable nuclear fuel cycle. CANDU reactors consistently lead all power reactors in the world in terms of performance. For its part, Egypt is now working on plans to develop a nuclear energy program for its own industrial, economic and social development.

Canada and Egypt strongly advocate the pursuit of peace, and Canada will continue to support Egypt's role in the Middle East peace process. Both countries are committed to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In order to demonstrate

that commitment, both countries have ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and have placed all their nuclear facilities, current and future, under international safeguards applied by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The agreement recognizes this important mutual commitment and carries a provision for the continuing application of safeguards in the event that the agency is no longer able to carry out in safeguarding functions.

The agreement also contains provisions for the retransfer of nuclear items, the reprocessing of spent fuel and the application of adequate levels of physical protection to nuclear facilities and nuclear fuel.

Each government views the agreement both as a further element strengthening the bilateral relationship and as an expression of the mutual interest in economic and industrial development. These economic and industrial advances will be assisted by the greater availability of energy resources developed through co-operation between Canada and Egypt.

Following his stay in Ottawa, Mr. Abaza visited Canadian nuclear facilities in Toronto and the Bruce nuclear installation near Kincardine, Ontario. He also travelled to Alberta and British Columbia to view the Syncrude plant at Fort McMurray and a hydro electric installation in British Columbia.

New embassy in China

Construction plans for Canada's new embassy in China are expected to be discussed further this summer by delegations from Canada and China.

The new embassy complex will be built on a one-hectare site, which will include a main chancery of offices, an ambassador's residence, ten Canadian-style townhouses for embassy staff, tennis courts, an outdoor swimming pool and a recreation centre. The complex has been designed to Canadian standards by a Toronto firm, Dubois Plumb and Associates, but it will be built by the Chinese.

Since opening an embassy in China in 1970, Canada has been renting space in a building designed and built by the Chinese in the San Li T'un diplomatic compound.

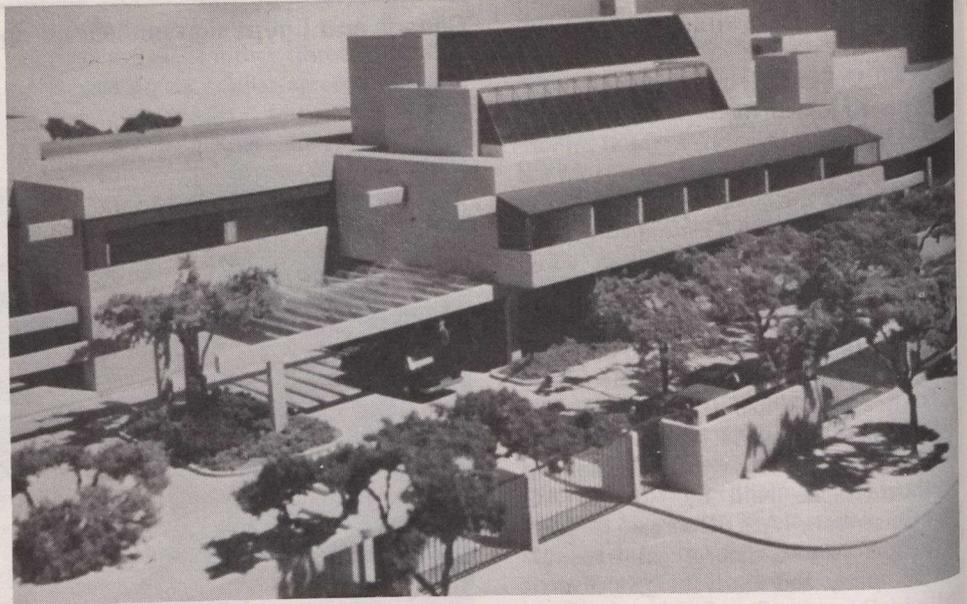
The different approaches to design and construction of the two countries have already resulted in discussions which have proved beneficial to the project.

The major challenge in designing the complex was to mesh Chinese workmanship and materials with Canadian technology.

Both sides have explained the advantages and disadvantages of the traditional ways of construction and the two groups have had the opportunity to select the most advantageous.

Architects visit Canada

A delegation of Chinese architects and engineers visited Canada to familiarize

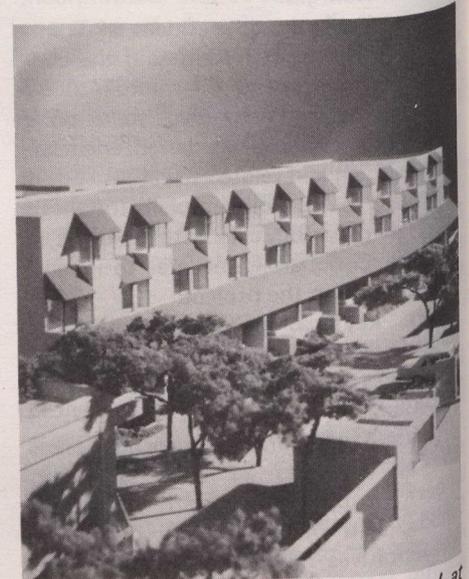


Model shows the front of Canada's new embassy in China.

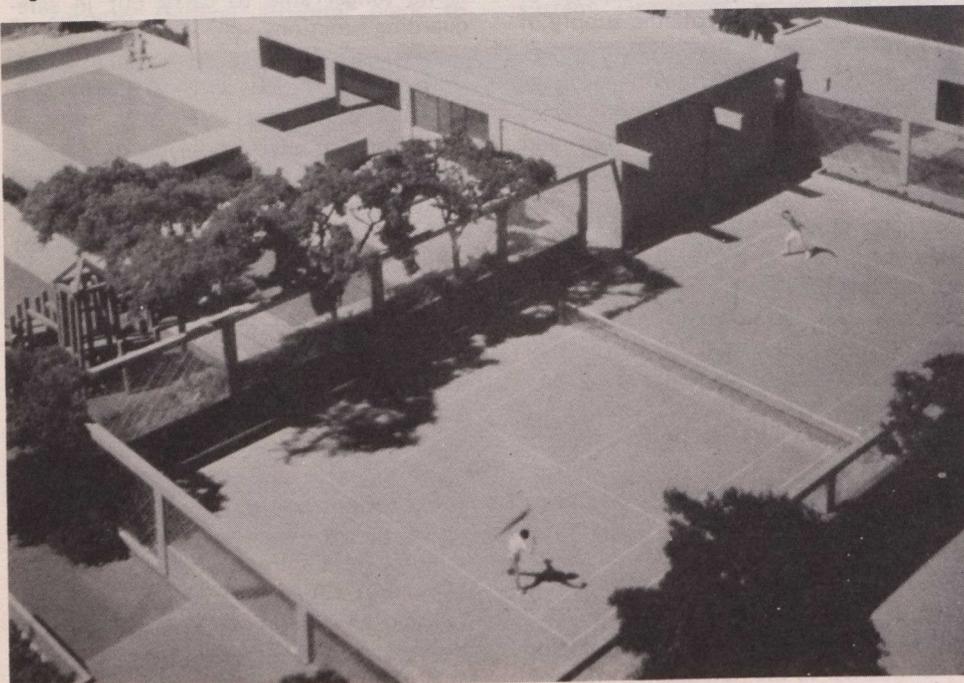
themselves with Canadian technology and discuss the final working drawings. The Canadian architects have made two trips to China to determine what materials would be available and how Chinese construction methods differ.

The project will rely on pre-cast concrete and bricks from China for the basic frame of the buildings. Because the complex will be located in an earthquake zone, the architects are also integrating Chinese methods of construction which will allow the walls to tolerate minor shifts.

Windows, door knobs, plumbing fixtures, locks and hinges will be imported



Canadian staff residences are located at the rear of the new embassy.



A view of recreation facilities including tennis courts and swimming pool (upper left).

from Canada, as will the mechanical and electrical equipment. The embassy will meet Canadian standards for insulation, although the Chinese building code does not require the material.

The chancery will also have solar panels advocated by the federal government to cut down on conventional energy requirements.

The design is intended to express the Canadian identity without conflicting with Chinese traditions.

The Canadian design has been approved by the Peking planning department. Construction of the embassy complex marks the first time Canadian and Chinese technology has come together in a project in China.

Poison prevention kits for parents

Health and Welfare Canada is making available kits to parents that are designed to encourage them to take steps to reduce accidental poisoning in the home.

The kit entitled *Accident Poisoning — Prevention*, is designed for parents of preschool children and contains a manual on how to poison-proof the home and a list of household poisons. There are telephone stickers for emergency numbers and an explanation of steps to take if poisoning does occur. The kit, originally produced by the Ontario government, is being made available by Health and Welfare Canada to the rest of Canada.

The kits will be distributed to parents by public health nurses in each province. They will also be made available to emergency departments of paediatric hospitals, poison information units and major medical centres.

Canada at OECD meeting

Minister of Finance Allan MacEachen and Minister of State for International Trade Edward Lumley participated in the ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) held in Paris, May 10-11.

The meeting provided an opportunity for finance and trade ministers from OECD member countries to review the economic situation and to identify policy responses. Their talks focused on areas such as inflation, unemployment, economic growth, trade issues in the 1980s, agricultural trade, and economic relations with non-member countries.

The OECD is an organization grouping 24 industrialized countries and is dedicated to promoting their economic growth, to fostering development assistance, and to encouraging trade expansion.

In a statement on macro-economic issues delivered to the meeting, Finance Minister MacEachen said that OECD members must "persevere with anti-inflationary policies". He added that they "must reaffirm the fundamental link between a reduction of inflation and a return to sustained growth and more jobs". Mr. MacEachen said that genuine recovery from the current difficult economic circumstances would be realized through lower inflation and corresponding reduced interest rates and greater consumer confidence.

Trade Minister Lumley, in his speech

to the meeting, said: "A greater convergence of views and closer co-ordination of policy on macro-economic issues is essential to an improvement in and expansion of our multilateral trading system."

He added that Canada welcomed the Secretary General's report with its proposals on trade issues for the 1980s. The minister said the report provided an important framework for study and highlighted significant links between trade and macro-economic policies.

"It illustrates as well the beneficial impact on trade of effective adjustment policies by industrial countries.... From a Canadian perspective we have particular concerns on which we look to the OECD

and GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) for complementary action in the months ahead," said Mr. Lumley.

Following the ministerial meeting, Trade Minister Lumley participated in talks with United States Special Trade Representative William Brock, Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry Shintaro Abe, and Vice-President (External Relations) of the Commission of the European Communities Wilhelm Haferkamp. The talks were a continuation of trade discussions held at Key Biscayne, Florida in January. Mr. Lumley also took the opportunity during their meetings to engage in separate bilateral discussions with each of the other participants.

Orders for new commuter plane continue to rise

Orders for de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited's *Dash 8* commuter airplane have reached \$250 million with more than a year remaining before the first plane is expected to take to the air.

Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion Herbert Gray, who was on hand for the recent unveiling of a full-scale mock-up of the plane's interior in Toronto, said that the \$250-million figure represents firm orders (on which a deposit is made) for about 40 *Dash 8*s and associated spare parts. Total orders and options for the aircraft now stand at 110.

By contrast the *Dash 8*'s predecessor, the 50-seat *Dash 7* was already flying before de Havilland received its first firm order for that aircraft.

The company must sell between 300

and 400 of the new planes to break even. The airplane manufacturer has staked its commercial future on the *Dash 8* which it hopes will capture a large share of the growing worldwide market for medium-sized commuter aircraft. The company has estimated the possible market for the plane at about 1 500.

Production for the *Dash 8* is scheduled for this autumn with the first flight set for 1983. First delivery to a customer will be in 1984.

Mr. Gray said de Havilland would receive \$5.5 million in federal funding to help buy two machines worth \$7.5 million. The machines will be used to produce the *Dash 8*. De Havilland is carrying out a \$50-million plant expansion to accommodate construction of the plane.



An artist's concept of the Dash 8 commuter plane.

Computer language labelled maple

A team at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario has created a new computer language that is expected to make computers more accurate in solving mathematical equations.

Using the expanded memory capacity of modern computers, the university team designed the language, called "maple", which permits fractions to be computed as fractions and allows for more precise calculations.

Using traditional computing languages, numbers are transformed into decimals. One-third is always chopped off and represented as .333333. In arithmetic, three-thirds equals one, but when a computer adds the decimal equivalents of three-thirds its gets .999999. The difference appears minor, but in large mathematical computations, substantial miscalculation can result.

Canadian industry promoted in Southeast Asia

A federal government campaign to increase exposure for Canadian industry last year resulted in 145 companies breaking into Southeast Asian markets for the first time.

The campaign was initiated by federal trade officials and was emphasized at the Canadian trade post in Singapore.

During 1981, Canadian firms participated in nine trade shows and four industry missions in Singapore through sponsorship by the federal and provincial governments, industry associations and private industry.

Canadian exhibitors included manufacturers of wood-working, educational, fisheries, aerospace, mining, communications, and data processing equipment, as well as hardware and industrial machinery.

Canadian companies will continue to exhibit in Singapore trade shows throughout 1982, and preparations are currently under way for Canadian participation in six shows focusing on offshore oil and gas, housewares, recreation, electricity, electronics and communications.

In addition, six federally-sponsored missions, and at least one provincial government mission, are expected to include Singapore in their 1982 itinerary. Finally, plans are being made to give Singapore government and industry leaders, a first-hand look at Canadian capabilities in a wide range of fields.

Special awards for athletes

Canada's top athletes were honoured by the federal government at a dinner and awards ceremony held recently in Ottawa.

Fifty-seven world-calibre athletes and two coaches were presented with awards from the Ministry of Fitness and Amateur Sport during the First Tribute to the Champions dinner.



Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (left) speaks with world champion skier Steve Podborski (right) and retired fencer Chantal-Gilbert-Payer at the dinner.

Since April 1, 1981, Canada has produced 27 World Cup winners, world champions or world record setters, including the 20-member Team Canada junior hockey squad, and 19 athletes who were medallists in major senior international competitions.

Alpine skiers Gerry Sorensen and Steve Podborski, paddler Larry Cain, shooter Susan Natrass, yachter Terry Neilson, boxer Shawn O'Sullivan, swimmer Alex Baumann, and members of the Canadian junior hockey team received "World Champion" inscribed rings in recognition of their efforts.

Other winners received medallions for their excellent standing in international competitions. The dinner also honoured 11 retired athletes, including skiers Dave Irwin and Dave Murray, diver Janet Nutter, swimmer Graham Smith and gymnast Philip Delesalle and coaches Jack Donohue of men's basketball and Debbie Muir of synchronized swimming.

"There is no doubt that as a nation we are at the top level in a number of sports," said Abby Hoffman, director of Sport Canada. "We've seen the winter sports

and it has been a very good year. We'll get more indication on the summer sports with the Commonwealth Games. Canada is ranked tenth to thirteenth over-all and I think we can be in the top six some day. That would be a major, major effort — a quantum leap — and possibly accomplished by the end of the decade."

Diabetics test synthetic insulin

Seventy Canadian diabetics from seven hospitals in Toronto are taking part in a two-year trial of bioengineered synthetic insulin.

The study aims to show the viability of synthetic insulin as a satisfactory replacement for the purified cow and pig insulin which an estimated 250 000 Canadian diabetics inject into themselves each day.

A replacement for animal insulin is important because a projected doubling of the world's 60 million diabetics in 20 years will exceed present supplies.

Biosynthetic insulin is produced by splicing the human gene controlling the production of insulin in the pancreas into the genetic material of a bacteria. This provides the bacteria (*E. coli*, a common germ that normally inhabits the human intestinal tract), with a code that enables the bacteria to manufacture human insulin as they multiply. The synthetic insulin is one of the first long-term applications of recombinant DNA technology.

Allergic reactions possibly reduced

It is also hoped that using insulin which is chemically identical to that produced in the human body will diminish the allergic reaction some diabetics experience with animal insulin. As well, the synthetic insulin may circumvent the problem caused when antibodies increase the body's resistance to the animal insulin. At present this means diabetics may continually be forced to increase their daily insulin dosages.

Newly diagnosed diabetics or those who develop a need for insulin will be divided into three groups for the study. One will take the synthetic insulin, another the refined pig insulin, and another a mixture of cow and pig insulin. The patients will take blood samples at home to measure sugar levels in the system twice a week, and will see a doctor every two months.

There are similar synthetic insulin studies testing 900 diabetics under way world-wide.

The Citizen

Grants approved for Canadian tours

The touring office of the Canada Council has announced that grants totalling \$768 517 have been given to 20 performers and companies for tours in other parts of Canada during 1982-83.

The three major ballet companies in Canada will receive the largest grants: \$320 000 to the National Ballet of Canada for its eastern tour in the fall; \$140 000 to Les Grands Ballets Canadiens for its western tour also in the fall; and \$100 000 to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet for its western tour in the spring of 1983.

Some of the other recipients include: Vancouver's Green Thumb Players for a co-production with Berlin's Grips Theatre of *Trummi Kaputt* which was performed at the children's festivals this spring in Vancouver, Edmonton and Toronto; Montreal's percussion ensemble, Répercussion, for a spring tour in the west; Vancouver's Canada Opera Piccola for an extensive tour across Canada this fall; St. John's Resource Centre for the Arts for their productions of *Terras de Bacalhau* and *We're No Match for No One* which was presented in a number of Canadian cities this spring; and Montreal's Théâtre de la Marmaille for *Pleurer pour rire (Crying to Laugh)* which was performed at the international children's festivals in Vancouver and Toronto as well as 20 performances throughout Ontario this spring with Prologue to the Performing Arts.

Teacher wins novelist award

Janet Turner Hospital's novel, *The Ivory Swing*, was selected from among 422 entries to win the \$50 000 Seal First Novel Award.

Jack McClelland, president of Seal Books of Toronto, presented the award in the form of a gold bar to Turner Hospital as part of the publishing house's fifth anniversary celebrations.

The Ivory Swing is the fourth winner of the Seal award, which was started five years ago when Seal Books was formed by McClelland and Stewart Limited and Bantam Limited to publish mass-market Canadian paperbacks.

Based on Turner Hospital's experiences in India in 1977, *The Ivory Swing* is a story of a middle-class Canadian couple who travel to India to study and to try to put their failing marriage back together. The author originally wrote about India

in a short story published in the *Atlantic Monthly* called *Waiting*, which won the Atlantic First award in 1978.

Born and raised in Melbourne, Australia Mrs. Hospital settled in Kingston, Ontario 11 years ago with her husband and two children. A high school teacher in Australia, she has been teaching remedial English to students at St. Lawrence College and to inmates of the maximum security penitentiary in Kingston. More than a dozen of her short stories have been published in magazines in Canada and the United States.

The decision to submit her manuscript to the Seal contest was made at the last minute, after reading a story in *The Globe and Mail* that said the sponsors were worried about a drop in entries due to the fact that no winner was chosen last year.

Mrs. Hospital's novel will be published in hardcover and paperback in Canada and will be released in the United States and Britain in October.

The city of Montreal seen through the eyes of children

Montréal vue par les enfants (Montreal as Seen by Children), an exhibition introducing children to the urban environment, is currently on tour in a number of centres in Montreal.

The exhibition is a synthesis of two other exhibitions with similar themes and approaches: *Montréal de plus près (Montreal, A Closer Look)*, organized by urban planner Chantal Léveillé at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in co-operation with the Heritage Montreal Foundation; and *L'enfant et son quartier (The Child and His Neighbourhood)*, organized by Ginette Cloutier with the collaboration of the Montreal Catholic School Board and the Quebec Department of Cultural Affairs.

Montréal de plus près (Montreal, A Closer Look) was designed as a retrospective of experiments conducted within the framework of a program aimed to familiarize children with their architectural heritage. After being presented at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in the fall of 1980, it circulated in France with the support of the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris.

The second exhibition, *L'Enfant et son quartier (The Child and His Neighbourhood)*, was presented at the Complexe Desjardins and at the University of Quebec in Montreal.

Montréal vue par les enfants (Montreal

Puppet show for TV

Fraggle Rock, a new children's puppet show is currently being prepared by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Jim Henson, the inventor of the Muppets.

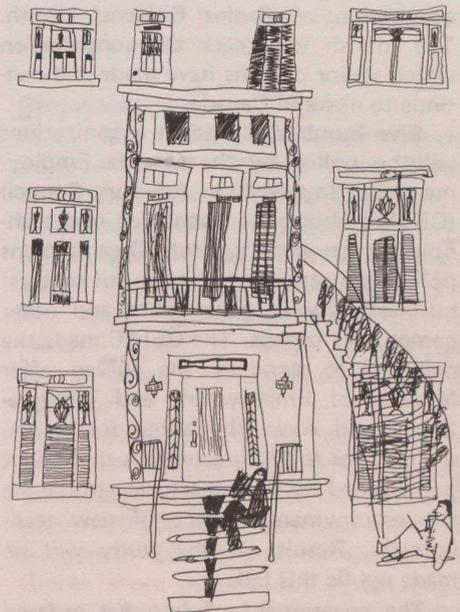
The story revolves around a family of characters, the Fraggles, who live on a rock. One of the new characters is called the Trash Heap, a compost pile that mysteriously comes to life and offers advice to the Fraggles.

The show, which will be broadcast in the 1982-83 season, will use Canadian writers and technicians as well as staff from *The Muppet Show*. As part of the deal, the Muppet staff will also hold workshops to teach Canadian performers puppeteering techniques.

Henson described the half-hour production as "a little like *Alice in Wonderland* or *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, with one real world entering into a fantasy world".

as Seen by Children) includes drawings, photographs, maps, texts and models from the two exhibitions, grouped under the themes: stained glass, houses, neighbourhood, architectural heritage and the history of Montreal.

Two audio-visual presentations featuring children at work on their projects, are also included in the exhibition.



House on rue Fabre by ten-year-old Jean-Sébastien is included in the exhibition *Montreal, A Closer Look, Architecture as Seen by Children*.

Telidon (Continued from P. 2)

tion of Montreal has proposed a service for consumers that would provide information in English and French about automobile performance ratings and consumer rights;

- the Canadian Automobile Association of Canada in Ottawa is planning a bilingual information network for its member associations across Canada;
- the city of Vancouver social planning department will establish an interactive service with public opinion polling, a health questionnaire, and information and diagrams relating to municipal issues;
- the Council of Yukon Indians, Whitehorse, Yukon proposes to install a Telidon system and create an information base in English and native languages to improve communications between the Yukon and southern parts of the country;
- Greater Vancouver Information and Referral Service will use Telidon technology and personal computers to develop a community information, electronic messaging and electronic mail service;

News briefs

June has been declared Senior Citizens' Month by Governor General Edward Schreyer. Some provinces already honour their older people during May or June each year, but this is the first national celebration of Senior Citizens' Month. The month will mark the contribution which senior citizens have made and continue to make in Canada.

Five hundred Canadian organizations will be polled by the Canada Employment and Immigration Advisory Council (CEIAC) about the impact of new technologies on employment. Organizations polled will represent a variety of sectors: business, labour, government and other community groups. The CEIAC made the decision to conduct the survey after Minister of Employment and Immigration Lloyd Axworthy asked for recommendations for future services that might be provided by his department to handle the employment impact of new technologies. Results of the study will be made public this fall.

The government of Iraq has ordered 200 specially-designed Chevrolet ambulances from Paul Demers et Fils Corporation of Beloeil, Quebec. The company recently supplied 350 ambulances to

- the Ontario Association for the Cerebral Palsied in Toronto intends to expand its participation in providing information to disabled people in Ontario through the Bell Canada VISTA system; and
- the Ryerson Nutrition Information Centre in Toronto proposes to create an electronic food and nutrition information directory.

In addition to these projects, feasibility studies will be undertaken with the Inuit Tapirisat and Taqramuit Nipingat Incorporated for services in northern and remote communities.

The Inuit Tapirisat has proposed a teletext trial in Frobisher Bay in conjunction with the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation. Taqramuit Nipingat has suggested a digital radio network which would link Inuit communities in northern Quebec with each other and with Montreal for the exchange of Telidon-based computer data and educational programs. These two proposals from Inuit organizations were received and accepted in principle but feasibility studies are required to deal with the special technological and geographical problems they pose.

Iraq and the latest order, worth \$4 million, brings the total to 910 ambulances supplied by Paul Demers.

A Canadian government science and technology mission visited Brasilia, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in May. The mission included representatives from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, the Department of External Affairs and the National Research Council.

Walter Dinsdale, long-time member of Parliament from Brandon, Manitoba has received an award at the United Nations in recognition of his work for the disabled. The award, presented by the Healing Community, an international religious organization, cited Mr. Dinsdale for his efforts in the rehabilitation movement in Canada. He was vice-chairman of the Special Parliamentary Committee on the Disabled and Handicapped.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has awarded grants totalling \$134 375 to Canadian researchers. The grants, intended to stimulate research into the social, economic, physical, environmental, legal and administrative aspects of housing, are offered twice a year and can be up to \$20 000. Smaller grants of up to \$2 500 are available on a quarterly basis.

Seven Ontario companies participated in Medax '82, an international exhibition for medical technology equipment and aids, held last month in Jerusalem, Israel. The trade mission, led by the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade, also met with the Israel Manufacturers Association, the Israel Export Institute and several local purchasers of medical supplies.

Northern Telecom Limited of Montreal said its United States unit, Northern Telecom Incorporated, received two contracts from the United States Army for \$11.2 million (U.S.). The contracts call for the unit to supply SL-1 digital business communications systems at Fort Benjamin Harrison near Indianapolis and Bayonne military ocean terminal in Bayonne, New Jersey. Both systems are expected to be in service by October.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a \$10 million (U.S.) line-of-credit agreement with the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank to support the sale of Canadian goods and services to buyers in Bulgaria. The line of credit is intended to assist Canadian exporters competing for small- and medium-sized sales to a minimum of \$50 000 in Bulgaria by providing their Bulgarian customers with a simple and easily accessible credit facility.

A Quebec company, Alex Couture Incorporated of Charny, has been awarded a \$950 000 (U.S.) contract for the supply of non-edible tallow to Algeria. Tallow is used primarily in the manufacture of soap. This represents the second sale of Canadian commodities made to the Algerian government through the Canadian Commercial Corporation. The first, awarded last August, was for the supply of canola, an edible oil extracted from rapeseed.

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