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- **Centres of Excellence**
A new approach to sharing scientific knowledge
- Constitutional proposals unveiled
- Montreal celebrates 350th anniversary
- Selfridges hosts first Canadian food retail promotion

In this issue

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ERRATUM
We apologise for misquoting the telephone number of Chinook-it in our November issue. This UK tour operator's number should read 071 701 3309.

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Front cover
Artist's view of Radarsat tracking over Canada, courtesy of Canadian Space Agency.

Radarsat is a Canadian-led project involving the USA, several provinces and the private sector. This sophisticated remote sensing satellite will be launched in 1994. It will carry a powerful microwave instrument that transmits and receives signals to 'see' through clouds and darkness, obtaining detailed images of Earth. It will map renewable resources, helping agriculture, forestry, shipping, oil exploration and ocean research.

Illustration: Paul Field

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Editorial

Canadians are proud of their heritage; their country and the richness and diversity of their accomplishments. So the 125th anniversary of Canada as a nation – the founding of Confederation – will be celebrated joyously. *Canada 125* provides an opportunity not only to celebrate but also look to the future with a constitution renewed to meet the needs and expectations at the beginning of its next 125 years. Our lead article discusses these issues and how we will address them.

The year will also see celebrations of other historic events: 350 years ago French missionary Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve founded the first permanent settlement on the Saint Lawrence River – now Montreal. Festivals, concerts, firework displays and exhibitions across Quebec will mark the anniversary, and provide added excitement for visitors to Canada.

This is also the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Highway, linking the USA through British Columbia. It was built in eight short months during World War II. Also in 1942 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police supply ship, the St. Roch, made the first west – east crossing through the Northwest Passage.

Part of the rich mosaic of Canada are the Mennonites and Hutterites. An exhibition of their furnishings at the Canada House Gallery will present their craftsmanship as part of a series of events marking *Canada 125* and the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in America.

Of course, great past achievements should be put into perspective. Remembering momentous occasions gives us the strength to go forward – on our past successes are built the advances of the world and its people. Canada is at the forefront, as evidenced by a revolutionary concept in the sharing of scientific data and expertise to benefit researchers and industry, at home and abroad. The network of Centres of Excellence was created with Canadian government support in 1988 and already boasts 15 areas of leading science and 4000 researchers.

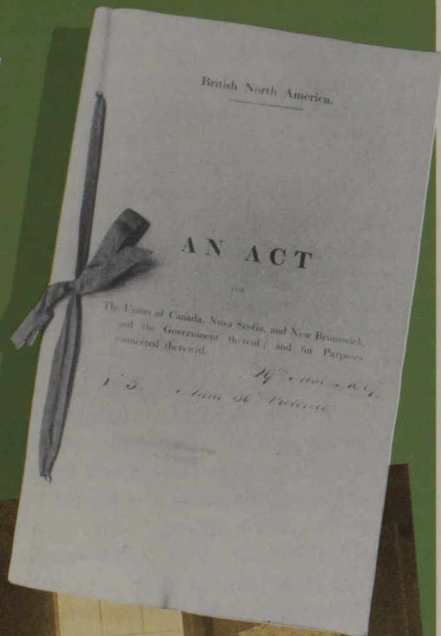


Canadian High Commissioner

Shaping Canada's Future

These changes add up to a renewal, now long overdue, of our Confederation. And renewal is what Canadians everywhere seek for our country — not confrontation, not division, not rupture.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney
September 24, 1991



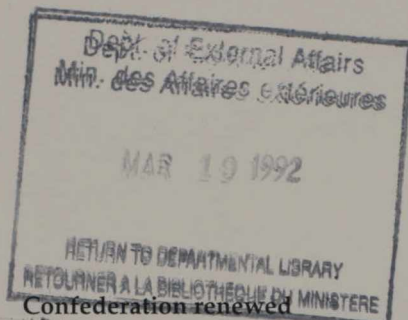
The British North America Act and the 'Fathers of Confederation' meeting in 1867

Canadians are in the midst of a period of intense reflection and debate about their country's future.

The focus of their debate is Canada's fundamental law, its Constitution, and the challenge is to redefine what is essentially a 19th-century document to make it better suited to the challenges of the 21st century.

After more than a year of study and consultation, the federal government issued in September a series of proposals for constitutional reform. The proposals attempt to resolve some long-standing issues: Quebec's place in the federation, native rights, westerners' desire for a stronger voice, and the distribution of powers between the federal and provincial governments. Because national unity and prosperity are intertwined, the plan also contains measures to strengthen the economic union, streamline government services and make Canada more competitive.

The debate is not over: release of the proposals was the first step in a five-month process of consultation with the provinces and the public, which is now nearing completion.



On September 24th Prime Minister Mulroney unveiled 28 proposals for fundamental constitutional reform.

The plan would, Mr. Mulroney told the House of Commons, build a stronger and more prosperous Canada where all Canadians can feel at home. It would recognise Quebec as a distinct society within the Canadian federation, establish native self-government, redistribute powers between the federal and provincial governments, provide for an elected Senate and a more effective House of Commons and strengthen the economic union.

The core of Canada's Constitution is the British North America Act of 1867 (now called the Constitution Act of 1867), which joined the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in Confederation. Changes to the act required the consent of the British Parliament until the Constitution was patriated in 1982. At that time, the federal government and nine of the ten provincial premiers agreed to add a Charter of Rights and Freedoms and an amending formula. Quebec objected to both the amending formula and the Charter and refused to sign. It was still bound by the new provisions, however.

In 1987, Prime Minister Mulroney and all 10 premiers agreed on a package of constitutional amendments, known as the Meech Lake Accord, which was designed to bring Quebec back into the constitutional fold. When the Accord lapsed in June 1990 after two provinces failed to ratify it within the three-year deadline, the federal government began to pursue other avenues of constitutional reform. An 18-member Cabinet committee chaired by Joe Clark, Minister for Constitutional Affairs, was formed to consider how to tackle constitutional reform. As a result of the committee's efforts, the government launched its proposals for reform in September.

The federal government and Parliament will use the plan to lead the constitutional debate, but the proposals are neither fixed nor final. The Prime Minister told the House of Commons that the government was submitting them for discussion and debate and would be open-minded 'to constructive amendments offered in the spirit of improving the proposals and broadening the consensus that Canadian unity needs and demands.'

A special all-party joint committee made up of 20 members of the House of Commons and 10 Senators and led by Quebec Senator Gerald Beaudoin and Manitoba MP Dorothy Dobbie was established to determine what improvements should be made to the plan. The federal government will also hold a series of conferences on the plan's major components. On the basis of input from the joint parliamentary committee, the public and the conferences, the government will then draft its policy on constitutional reform.

The objectives of the federal plan are to provide for greater prosperity, recognise Quebec's distinctive character, streamline government to serve Canadians better, recognise aboriginal rights and reform governmental institutions such as the

Photos: Canapress Photo Service / National Archives of Canada C-7299

Senate to make them more responsive to Canadians.

The 28 proposals are divided into three sections: the first deals with Canadian identity and values; the second with institutions, primarily Parliament; and the third with the management of the economic union.

Canadian identity and values

The plan reaffirms the rights of individuals set out in the 1982 Charter of Rights and Freedoms, such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of association, and includes a proposal to amend the Charter to guarantee property rights. To extend the protection of Charter rights, the government proposes to tighten the notwithstanding provision of the Constitution. This clause, which allows Parliament or provincial legislatures to override certain Charter rights, was included in the 1982 Constitution to give elected representatives, rather than judges, the final say over public policy and social goals. It is proposed that a 60% majority be required for a legislature to invoke the clause rather than a simple majority as is now the case.

Another proposal calls for a new 'Canada clause' to be inserted at the beginning of the Constitution which would define what common values Canadians share, including a commitment to fairness and tolerance, a respect for diversity and recognition of Canada's two official languages.

The collective rights of six million French-speaking people living in Quebec have been a major focus of the constitutional debate, and, in fact, have held a central place in over 200 years of Canada's constitutional tradition. In the Quebec Act of 1774, the British government guaranteed the rights of Quebecers to their own language, religion, civil law and seigneurial system. These rights were reaffirmed in 1867 in the British North America Act. In fact, the Canadian federation was designed to reconcile the strong desire of the provinces, especially Quebec, to preserve their individuality within an economic union.

The federal government proposes to affirm 'the special responsibility of Quebec to preserve and promote its distinct society' in the Canada clause of the Constitution. Another clause would provide that the Charter be interpreted 'in a manner consistent with the preservation and promotion of a vibrant French-speaking society in Quebec,' as well as with the preservation of linguistic minorities, English-speaking in Quebec and French-speaking outside the province. The distinctiveness of Quebec society would be defined as including its French-speaking majority, unique culture and civil law tradition. These provisions, Mr. Mulroney told the House of Commons, would give Quebec the reforms it needs to be a secure, confident and equal partner in Confederation.

The 850,000 aboriginal Canadians — Indians, Métis (those of mixed Indian and non-Indian

Prime Minister Mulroney shakes hands with Joe Clark after presenting the government's constitutional proposals to the House of Commons.



Photo: Canapress Photo Service

ancestry) and Inuit (Eskimos) – make up another community whose distinctiveness and collective rights the federal government believes should be protected. It proposes to entrench in the Constitution the aboriginal right to self-government, within the Canadian federation and subject to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Over a ten-year period, aboriginal peoples and governments could negotiate self-government agreements. If there was insufficient progress, the courts could be called upon to enforce this right after the ten-year transition period. The government also proposes that natives be represented in an elected Senate and that there be a constitutional process to deal with aboriginal issues.

Reforming institutions

In recent years there has been a rising demand for reform of Canada's upper house. The Senate is seen as unrepresentative since its members are appointed by the federal government and western provincial representation is inequitable. The new Senate as proposed by the federal government would be elected and have much more balance. The exact form of provincial representation is one of the things being considered during the consultative process. The Senate would also be more effective, with the power to approve key government appointments such as the Governor of the Bank of Canada and the chairman of the CBC. While the House of Commons would remain the primary legislative body, as a practical matter, the Senate would have to approve all laws. However, it would have no power over appropriation measures, and on matters of particular national importance such as defence, it could only delay legislation for six months.

To make the House of Commons less partisan and its Members 'more responsive to the people who elected them,' it is proposed that rules be changed to allow more free votes not dictated by party affiliation and to restrict 'confidence votes' that could bring down the government. Individual MPs would be able to introduce more legislation, and committees would have more power to amend bills before they become law. Such changes would not require constitutional amendments and, in fact, the reform process has already begun.

The government is also proposing to give the provinces and territories a role in filling vacancies on the Supreme Court of Canada.

The economic union

The government's economic proposals are aimed at strengthening the economic union, harmonising federal-provincial economic policies and bringing government decision-making closer to the people by reducing duplication of services and overlapping regulation.

At the heart of the plan to strengthen the economic union is a proposal to remove internal barriers to the free movement of people, goods, services and capital.

Although interprovincial tariffs were prohibited in the British North America Act, as Mr. Mulroney told the House of Commons, there are more

barriers to trade between the provinces than there are between the 12 countries of the European Community. These non-tariff barriers include procurement practices that favour local suppliers, requirements that wine and beer sold in a province must be produced locally, and health and safety regulations that vary widely between provinces. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association has estimated that such barriers cost the Canadian economy as much as C\$6 billion.

The government is also proposing that Parliament be given a new constitutional power to pass laws for the efficient functioning of the economic union. Since the federal and provincial governments share responsibility for the management of the economic union, the proposal stipulates that federal legislation under this new power could not be enacted without the approval of at least seven of the provinces representing half the population.

Many areas of government fall under shared jurisdiction, and there is considerable duplication of services. To reduce the overlap, the federal government is proposing to transfer some powers to the provinces. They would be given exclusive control over manpower training, and federal-provincial agreements would be negotiated, tailored to the needs of each province, on immigration and cultural policy. The federal government, however, would retain responsibility for key national cultural institutions such as the CBC.

The provinces would have exclusive jurisdiction over housing, forestry, mining, municipal affairs and tourism, with the federal government retaining responsibility for international agreements in these areas. To increase provincial involvement in the key area of broadcasting, the role of the regional offices of the broadcasting regulatory agency, the CRTC, would be expanded.

A Council of the Federation, composed of representatives of the federal, provincial and territorial governments, would help coordinate federal-provincial economic and fiscal policies.

To strengthen its ability to fight inflation, the federal government is proposing to amend the Bank of Canada Act to make it clear that price stability is the central bank's primary mandate. Regional input into the bank's policies would be increased and the provinces would be consulted on appointments to its board of directors.

The most important step to ensure Canada's future prosperity, the Prime Minister told the House of Commons, is to resolve the constitutional challenges to national unity. He invited Canadians to 'set aside (their) differences and engage in nation-building with full exuberance.' ❀

(Excerpt from a major feature in our Washington issue of Canada Today, full text of which is available from Public Affairs, Canadian High Commission)

Postscript

Since this article was written, the constitutional regional conferences have been held in major cities across Canada involving people from all walks of life. Each one focused on different aspects of Ottawa's current proposals. A parallel process of aboriginal review of self-government should be complete this month. The government will then assess the results and present a package of proposed amendments to Parliament in the spring.



Célébrations 1992...

In 1642 French missionary and colonist Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve founded a settlement on the Ile de Montréal. He would be amazed to see it today. Since his time the settlement has grown to become a city with a metropolitan population of 3.1 million. This year Montreal celebrates its 350th anniversary with a myriad of festivities.

Montreal had turbulent beginnings however. Being situated at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers, the original settlement was at the centre of a conflict between Indian tribes for control of the fur supply. But after a peace treaty with the Iroquois was concluded in 1701, the climate for trade became more relaxed. By the year 1789, the city had spread and encompassed a population of 5500.

This year a special tribute is being paid to Montreal. Visitors to the city will bear witness to a spectacular celebration of its past, present and future. Over 300 events and activities will take place during the 150 days of festivities from May 15 to October 12.

May 15 marks the magic day when the curtain rises on Célébrations 1992. Things get underway in the evening with a dramatic sound and light extravaganza which will transform the city's Place d'Armes into a magnificently decorated theatre. More than 100 performers will then re-enact the principle events in Montreal's long and colourful history.

The following day, an official inauguration of new and revitalised buildings in Old Montreal and the Old Port, will allow visitors to appreciate the impressive results of blending new with old. In the evening the skies will be ablaze when, from the summit of Mount-Royal, Célébrations 1992 will stage a musical fireworks display. This magnificent 45-minute spectacle will send 'pyromusical paintings' dancing into the night skies.

Day 3 will take on a more serious historical note. In commemoration of the first mass celebrated in Montreal in 1642, a special ritual will be conducted at the Notre-Dame Basilica, underscoring the powerful roots from which Montreal's history has evolved. Among the 70 events scheduled during the opening festivities will be a special concert by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and the opening of numerous exhibitions.

Among the new and refurbished buildings will be the Centre d'archéologie et d'histoire de la Pointe-à-Callière, a unique complex which houses the old firehouse in Place Youville, now the Centre d'histoire de Montréal museum, the crypt under Place Royale, the Old Customs House and a new building called l'Eperon. Described by the chairman of Célébrations 1992, Patrick Kenniff, thus: 'It's a marvellous project, reminding me of the archaeological museum in Bath, England, and no doubt will bring in the 300 000 visitors a year promised by SIMPA (la Société immobilière du patrimoine architectural de Montreal).'

Just to the west of Pointe-à-Callière, visitors will be able to stroll along the banks of the restored and landscaped Lachine Canal entrance and watch the pleasure boats navigate the rebuilt locks.

Patrick Kenniff himself observes that virtually

a show to upstage all shows

350 YEARS



MONTRÉAL
let's celebrate

A taste of what Montreal has to offer in 1992

Opening Ceremony 15th May, 1992

Historical tableau

Sound and light extravaganza
at Place d'Armes

Spectacular Fireworks and Music Show

From the top of Mont-Royal

Les Nuits de Montréal

An evening of lively street parades

Commemorative Mass

In tribute to Montreal's first mass in 1642
at the Notre Dame Basilica

Te deum

A special performance by
l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal

Events and Festivals

Benson & Hedges

Fireworks Competition

Every Saturday from 31st May
to 2nd August
Ile Ste-Hélène

Formula One Grand Prix Molson

12th to 14th June, Ile Notre Dame

Montreal International Jazz Festival

2nd to 12th July
Downtown Montreal

'Just for laughs' Comedy Festival

9th to 19th July,
Downtown Montreal

International Scottish festival

10th to 16th August
The Old Port, McGill University
and on Ile Ste-Hélène

International Food Festival

13th to 23rd August

Player's International

Tennis Tournament

15th to 23rd August
Jarry Tennis Centre

Montreal World Film festival

27th August to 6th September
Downtown Montreal Cinemas

The 1992 celebrations include literally hundreds of activities over 150 days and nights with the final closing festivities taking place on 10th to 12th October.

every district and corner of Montreal will be celebrating this summer but three selected locations will be particularly active: Old Montreal and the Old Port, la Place du 350 at the new Square Berri, and le Parc des Iles. In Old Montreal, Bonsecours Market is being restored and will now command a clear view of the river. As a permanent information centre and a place for people to meet, it will also serve as a site for various large-scale exhibitions. For devotees of the performing arts, particularly jazz and country music, the new Square Berri, will be the focus of attention.

Le Parc des Iles, on the other hand, is a natural amphitheatre on Ile Ste-Hélène. Capable of accommodating 75000 people, it will host three important thematic days brimming with unique special events and performances. July 18 will see 'Montréal et la chanson francophone', a veritable tour of the world of French songs performed by Montreal's most celebrated singer-songwriters and others from abroad. On August 8, 'Montréal reçoit' will present a warm tribute to cross-cultural artistic exchange which will see the city's own singers and stage performers join hands with colleagues from the four corners of the globe. Finally, on August 15 and 16, 'Montréal au rythme des Amériques' will feature the characteristic sounds and music of the people of the three Americas radiating out from different stages.

The best summer yet

Of the major festivals taking place the annual world-renowned Montreal International Jazz Festival will take pride of place with 350 different performances during the first ten days of July. A cinematic tradition is the Montreal World Film Festival which brings together thousands of enthusiastic film makers and filmgoers from around the world for the week of August 27 to September 7. The following week marks the first ever International Country Music Festival, a series of lively concerts at various halls and outdoor venues. And one cannot ignore the International Fireworks Competition which takes place each week during the main summer months, nor the Canada Grand Prix a major attraction for the last weekend in May. Of particular interest to British visitors will be the World Scottish Festival, Montreal-92. Organised by the Montreal Thistle Council, the theme will be the Auld Alliance; the historic association between the Scots and the French which has existed for seven centuries. Taking place between August 13 and 23, it will include military tattoos, clan gatherings, highland games and an arts festival.

So, with something for everybody's taste let's get ready for the hottest summer yet in Montreal!

Centres of Excellence

A unique interchange of expertise between universities, government & industry



While hospitals, both federal and provincial government organisations, industry and universities all participate in the Network of Centres of Excellence, the above map shows only the universities in four typical networks. These four networks, each stretching from coast to coast, involve 30 different universities and more than twice that number of other organisations. The researchers from all of the partners work together on projects that are vital to Canada's future prosperity and quality of life.

Canada's scientific researchers are drawn together in 'networks' which provide nationwide links between the universities, government and industry. The Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE) is a revolutionary concept in developing research. Each of the NCEs pursues leading-edge research in a specialist area of strategic importance to Canada, and works with industry to create commercial opportunities from the results.

The emphasis on networking and partnerships gives the nation's top researchers everywhere in the country the opportunity to share ideas and develop new co-operative approaches to problems. It helps increase the academics' awareness of industry's needs and encourages both sectors to join forces to enhance Canadian achievements and competitiveness.

The scheme was set up after the federal government announced a \$240 million five year programme in May 1988 to establish 10 to 15 Networks of Centres of Excellence. It is jointly administered by the Medical Research Council, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The programme aims primarily at:

- focusing the country's best minds on stimulating cutting-edge fundamental and applied research;
- career development and retention of world-class Canadian scientists and engineers in technologies critical to future industrial competitiveness;
- creating nationwide networks based on co-operation between industry, government, and universities to develop Canadian research and technology; and
- fostering dynamic university/industry partnerships to accelerate advanced technology transfer to industry.

The response to the programme was astonishing. Within eight months of its launch 158 applications were received, involving 4000 researchers across Canada. Applications were examined by an international peer review committee which considered:

- the excellence of the science & participants (50%);
- the proposed linkages between university, industry, and government researchers (20%);
- the relevance of the research programme to industrial competitiveness (20%); and
- the management structure of the proposed network (10%).

Fifteen networks were selected for funding. Typical of these are IRIS and OPEN:

Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Systems (IRIS)

IRIS brings together the leading academic talents in the fields of artificial intelligence and advanced robotics. It is managed by PRECARN Associates Inc., a unique research consortium of more than 30 Canadian corporations addressing the challenges and the opportunities arising from the rapid development of 'intelligent systems'. By pursuing longer term or 'precompetitive' research projects, and by sharing current experiences with the introduction of robotics and artificial intelligent systems, PRECARN members improve their ability to capture the benefits of technologies that will revolutionise almost every industrial process and change many of the business and government services affecting our daily lives. IRIS operates as a separate component for PRECARN's industrial research network, but with the same procedures for project review and knowledge dissemination. IRIS's research includes three areas of investigation:

Computational Perception: The requirement that an intelligent robot must be able to perceive its environment drives this research. It involves the embodiment of perceptual theories in the design and implementation of software and hardware. It also serves as the basis for development of technology for automation, telerobotics, remote sensing and biomedical applications.

Knowledge-Based Systems: Breakthroughs in hardware and software technologies have made it possible to build systems that exhibit intelligence in the performance of a task, ranging from medical diagnosis, to the design of computer installations and the interpretation of geological data. The nucleus of such expert systems consists of a knowledge base where information about the application domain is stored, and an inference engine which draws conclusions from a set of input data using the contents of the knowledge base.

Intelligent Robotic Systems: The use of robotic devices for anything more than pre-programmed repetitive actions in relatively benign surroundings is challenging. The selected research projects have the objective of drawing on, and adding to, the research in the other areas to eventually arrive at a point where autonomous robotic devices can

work effectively in even the most hostile environments. This ultimate objective of intelligent robotic systems is well beyond the timeframe of this programme, but these projects will bring us closer to that objective.

Ocean Product Enhancement Network (OPEN)

OPEN's participants include scientists from the universities shown on the map, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Canada's three largest seafood companies - National Sea Products, Clearwater Fine Foods and Fishery Products International. OPEN's scientific goal is to investigate the processes which control survival, growth and distribution of fish and shellfish. The research programme is focused primarily on sea scallop and Atlantic cod: The major programme modules have ambitious objectives that require cooperation and collaboration from multi-disciplined groups of scientists, including geneticists, physiologists, molecular biologists, marine ecologists, and physical oceanographers. Most projects involve both a laboratory and a field component. Improved data on fish population and migrations will enhance Canada's ability to manage more effectively the fisheries industry. OPEN is employing molecular genetic techniques to identify particular fish to establish how they have developed and where they are at any particular instant in time for the required data base.

During the first sixteen months of OPEN's research ending last October, the work has concentrated on data collection and reduction; intensive data analysis is currently in progress. Some interesting preliminary results have been achieved, and it is expected that publication of the results will accelerate over the next year. Integration of OPEN's work into the context of industrial implications is an ongoing national and international concern.

The remaining thirteen Networks cover a wide spectrum of scientific expertise:

Canadian Bacterial Diseases Network investigating key aspects of bacterial infections through a focused study of bacterial attack and host response in humans, animals and plants.

Insect Biotech Canada exploring ways of altering naturally occurring viruses to make them more effective and selective in their attack on insects.

Canadian Genetic Diseases Network

investigating genetic predisposition to diseases such as cancer and heart disease, and identifying the specific genetic abnormalities that cause diseases such as cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, and Huntington's disease.

Network of Centres of Excellence on High-performance Concrete

developing stronger, more durable concrete for roads, offshore platforms, hydro-electric power stations, and toxic-waste storage.

Mechanical and Chemimechanical Wood-Pulps Network

improving mechanical pulping processing technology to produce high value and quality papers.

Canadian Institute for Telecommunications Research

developing bandwidth on demand and enhanced personal communications systems.

Micronet - Microelectronic Devices, Circuits, and Systems for Ultra Large Scale Integration

developing the next generation of micro-electronic components.

Centres of Excellence in Molecular and Interfacial Dynamics

understanding the behaviour of atoms and molecules at surfaces.

Neural Regeneration and Recovery

striving to understand how the central nervous system works and what is required to restore function after eye, brain or spinal cord damage.

Canadian Aging Research Network Society

investigating conditions that can help Canadians maintain and enhance their productivity and independence in their later years.

Protein Engineering Network of Centres of Excellence

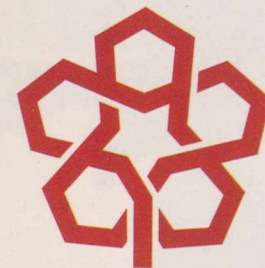
attempting to understand and improve enzymes and other proteins, leading to new ways of treating cancer and infectious diseases and to simplified commercial processes.

Respiratory Health Network of Centres of Excellence

developing innovative solutions for the treatment and prevention of breathing problems caused by diseases or environmental factors.

Canadian Network for Space Research

understanding how the environment of space affects spacecraft, and remote sensing of high atmosphere processes.



CANADIAN
NETWORKS
OF CENTRES
OF EXCELLENCE



Food and Drink from the Great Outdoors Indoors

at Selfridges, March 30 to April 11.

The first retail promotion in Britain of Canada's food and beverages is to take place at Selfridges, the renowned departmental store in the heart of London's West End, from March 30 to April 11

About 100 products new to Britain and 50 others already on the market will feature in the promotion which captures the spirit of Canada under the theme 'food and drink from the great outdoors – indoors.'

The 83-year-old Selfridges was England's first departmental store and is one of its best known. It attracts hundreds of thousands of shoppers a year from all over the world.

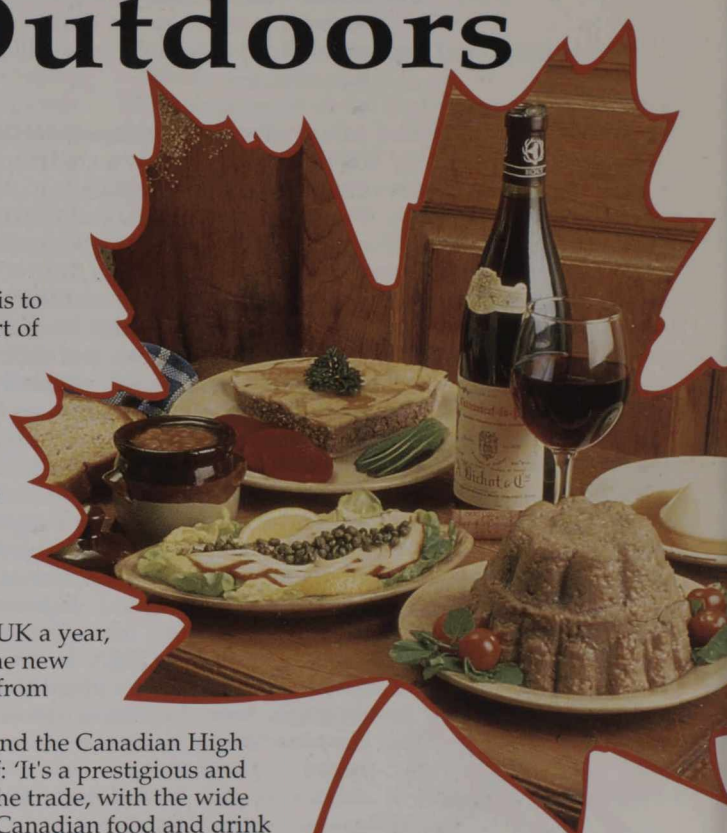
A spokesperson for Selfridges said: 'We believe in offering new, exciting and original foods from around the world.'

Though Canada already exports £160 million of foodstuffs to the UK a year, it is now seeking a higher profile as a food and beverage supplier. The new promotion will provide increased awareness of the many fine foods from Canada.

It will take place in the food hall, organised jointly by Selfridges and the Canadian High Commission. Said a senior member of the mission's commercial staff: 'It's a prestigious and attractive location for us to acquaint customers, and to some extent the trade, with the wide variety of high quality products and innovative packaging from the Canadian food and drink industry.'

The £20 billion Canadian food industry is highly sophisticated and has food safety standards among the most stringent in the world. The promotion stresses freshness, purity and wholesomeness in many of the lines, which range from fruit juices to sauces, relishes, sweets, jams, beers, wines, spirits and fish.

As well as the taste of the great outdoors, generations of immigrants from all over the world have added exotic flavours to Canada's cuisine. Says a major UK importer, who has handled Canadian food for 12 years: 'There are hundreds of excellent products in Canada just waiting to be discovered.'



Win a Holiday in Canada

Get your tastebuds in training now. Visitors to Selfridges between March 30 and April 11 can win a wonderful holiday in Canada. The six-day trip for two, to Toronto and Niagara, is courtesy of Canadian Airlines International, Bales Tours Ltd and the Canadian High Commission. You can enter the free draw during the promotion. Simply pick up an entry form in the Food Hall. 🍁



ALL THINGS COMMON:

Mennonite and Hutterite Home Furnishings

April 22 heralds the opening of a most unusual and distinctive home furnishings exhibition. The history and culture of Canadian Mennonite and Hutterite communities is reflected in their acknowledged skills as craftsmen. A visit to the Canada House Gallery will offer the chance to glimpse furniture and other crafts rarely seen in Britain. The show continues until July 3.

When the Mennonites, a Protestant religious-cultural sect which emerged within the Anabaptist movement of the early 16th century Reformation, sought refuge in North America from persecution in Europe, they brought with them a strong tradition of furniture-making. These skills were passed down through generations.

Out of the mix of European and American approaches came furniture that was distinctive and different. New styles which were brought to the colonies from Europe, were modified to suit the tastes of colonial society. Rural furniture makers reinterpreted these versions, Americanised by their counterparts in towns, often adding traditional features. Thus Mennonite furniture showed touches of the colonial William and Mary, Queen Anne and Georgian periods. Often rural furniture makers, unable to handle the intricacies of decoration used by their urban colleagues, painted or simulated wood-grain, or incorporated painted folk-art designs.

Mennonites in Pennsylvania were forced to move to Canada in 1786 because of their pacifism during the American War of Independence. In Upper Canada, now Ontario, they settled near Niagara, and in the York and Waterloo counties. Their furniture retained the basic solid Germanic shape and spirit but also embodied American influences. In Upper Canada, different conditions in the three settlements produced clearly defined regional variations: Waterloo furniture was similar

to that made in Pennsylvania; Niagara furniture strayed from the American models, becoming quite sophisticated and in York County, the two townships of Markham and Vaughan followed a middle course, remaining firmly rooted in the larger German-Ontario tradition but retaining ties to Europe and America.

Because of their troubled background, their furniture was of necessity portable, made in sections. It frequently bore motifs denoting origins of communities, but despite ornamentation, the overall impression was of simplicity of form and restraint in decoration. This was in contrast to the interior decoration of Mennonite homes where colours such as red, yellow and blue were used to cover doors, skirting boards, coat rails and even floor boards, particularly in the latter half of the 19th century.

Much of the first permanent furniture made by the Mennonites is still in use today, owned and cherished by the descendants of settlers.

Niagara style

After the move from Pennsylvania, furniture-making continued relatively uninterrupted in the Niagara region. The arrival of other European furniture makers added to the tradition. Woods such as maple, walnut and cherry were used, while construction and design became more sophisticated, replacing the painted wood-grain and folk art decoration. At first the moveable pieces continued to reflect the Chippendale style common in early Pennsylvania. Gradually they adopted the new Regency style from England and Empire style from France, but interpreted these with a North American neo-classicism.

Waterloo County

By contrast, furniture-making in the more remote Waterloo area was disrupted as settlers cleared the land and set up farms. The only furniture made was crude and functional, until in a single generation it had resumed on the early Pennsylvanian lines. Occasionally some of the features of the more classical European approach were used alongside those of the older style, within the same piece of furniture. Settlers moved from Niagara to Waterloo bringing with them techniques such as stencilling. The older techniques of veneering, and inlay work were refreshed through this indirect contact with Pennsylvania. Painted or inlaid folk symbols were common and occasionally were carved in low relief and highlighted in paint of contrasting colour with the rest of the piece in solid colour. Waterloo furniture remained more Germanic than that of other Upper Canada furniture, retaining such features as 'bracket' or 'bun' feet. Almost all of the furniture made in Waterloo was of soft pine as it had been in Pennsylvania.

York County

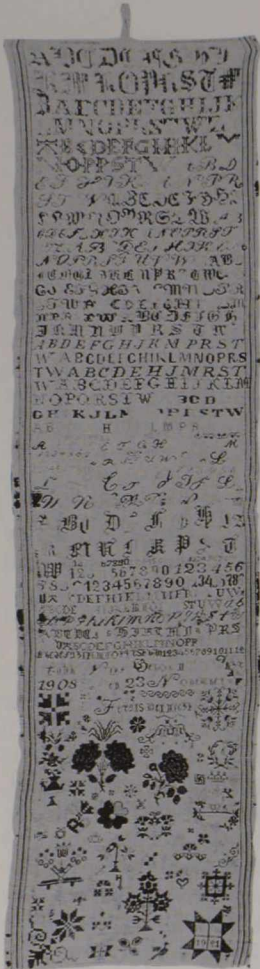
As the smallest of the communities, most of these isolationists settled in Markham Township, making strictly functional furniture with perhaps only a heart motif but losing the Pennsylvania influence.

Desk

Moses Eby (1799-1834)
Waterloo County, 1817
Inlaid wood
127 x 101.5 x 50 cm
Doom Pioneer Village,
Kitchner

Among the most superbly crafted pieces of Pennsylvania-German furniture is this early cherrywood desk. Elaborate inlay work appears on its base and drawers, and the maker's name and the date are embossed within a large heart on the lid.





Hutterite Towel,
Saskatchewan.

Embroidered towels from Hutterite colonies frequently depict several alphabets in varied scripts followed by an array of traditional folk motifs, the name of the maker and date of completion. This long towel by thirteen year old Anna Wipf is profusely decorated with stylised birds, trees, hearts and other motifs, as well as twenty-seven alphabets.

By the first half of the nineteenth century the Markham Mennonites had resumed making furniture both for themselves and the wider community. It was more ornate and impressive designed to suit new home styles, frequently including large china cupboards, chest of drawers and blanket boxes, which were often paint-grained to resemble wood. Two such makers of the period were John and Jacob Barkey and a generation later, their nephew Samuel Burholder, who often used machine techniques.

A homeland found

Today the history of Mennonite families in Canada, their furniture and artifacts, is well documented and provides a fascinating record of their lives and customs.

In the early days, whilst many of the Swiss Mennonite families had fled to Pennsylvania, others from Germany settled in Russia, invited by the Czarina Catherine II. This migration began in 1788. As their privileges waned and popular resentment against them grew, the Canadian government invited them to settle on the Prairies. The first families arrived in 1874, some 7750 people. They lived in 25 townships set aside in Manitoba. Between 1922-27, a further 20000 emigrated to Canada. The Russian Mennonites had been farmers, cultivating silk worms and selling silk. They brought with them mulberry seeds as gifts and their original trees can still be found in abundance.

The first furniture was rudimentary to match their earliest homes but by the late 19th and early 20th centuries it gave way to more detailed and intricate work. Basic softwood was used, painted with bright colours - yellow, red and green - often with black mouldings, feet and handles. The pieces were simplified versions of the original heavy Germanic baroque. Often contrasting colour schemes were used on one piece. Corner cupboards, rocking cradles, square tables, chests of drawers, blanket chests and sleeping benches were all to be found in the Mennonite home.

'Fraktur' and other crafts

The practice of 'Fraktur' or illumination was also widely practiced in Mennonite communities in

both Eastern and Western Canada. Most work consists of the decorative embellishment of religious texts and family documents which combine calligraphic and pictorial elements. They include writing-exercises (Vorschriften), family-registers, prayers (house blessings), spiritual labyrinths, decorated books and book plates, and certain pictorial drawings. In addition to the hand-drawn illuminations, they produced delightful 'Scherenschrutte' - scissor or knife cuttings which were popular in Europe and North America during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Another form of home furnishing was the production of embroidered 'show-towels' and samplers, patchwork quilts and woven cloth or rope floor mats and 'runners'. In this way the Mennonite home was given another layer of decoration which sprang from practical needs. 'Show towels' and 'alphabet samplers' were valuable learning tools for study of the scriptures and reading and writing skills. Quilts and floor coverings were an affordable form of soft furnishings.

Hutterite migration

The Prairie provinces also provided a homeland for other persecuted Anabaptist groups from Europe and Russia, in particular the Hutterites, who can trace their origin as a distinct community to the early 16th century. The community or 'bruderhof' remains to this day at the core of the Hutterite system.

The Hutterites suffered the same forms of persecution as the Mennonites and, like them, they were invited to settle in Russia by Catherine the Great. Eventually they fell foul of military training requirements from which they had previously been exempted. Unable to adhere to the laws of the land in which they had settled, the entire population of 800 Hutterites fled to South Dakota between 1874-1877.

However America's entry into the First World War brought a further dilemma for the pacifist Hutterites and, after an invitation by the Canadian government, the majority of the community moved to Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan between 1918 and 1923.

Hutterites today continue to live in country

Sleeping Bench, Manitoba
Late nineteenth century

The Schlafbank or bench-bed, popular in eastern Europe, was made in western Canada by Mennonite and Hutterite settlers into the twentieth century. This example from southern Manitoba retains the original bright orange-red colour, ivory trim around the raised panels and black striping on its vertical splats.





Angel 1848
Joseph D Bauman
(1815-99)
Waterloo County, Ontario
9.5 x 15 cm

This cross-legged angel was painted for the artist's first child, Maria, born in 1839.

Birds and Flowers 1886
Anna Weber (1814-88)
Waterloo County, Ontario
16 x 10 cm

Even the folk art of strongly defined ethnic communities was not impervious to change: in the case of Fraktur, the pictorial element gradually became more important than the text.



communities largely withdrawn from the outside world like their forebears. Each community is set out in a characteristic layout which has not changed since the 16th century, consisting of a number of buildings designated for communal functions and those for accommodation in the form of long houses containing several family 'apartments'. Hutterites worship, are educated, cook, eat, and wash in these communal buildings. The family apartments contain the minimum of furnishings. Carpenters were expected to serve the colony as a whole, not individual members. To an adult Hutterite, property was and is something given to them by the colony, for use during one's lifetime. The concept of property means the right to use but not to possess. When a household item was worn out, a replacement was simply ordered. 'Antique' as a treasure does not exist in Hutterite life. Examples of older furniture are therefore extremely rare. Documentation of Hutterite homes is practically negligible, with photography banned.

The most ornamental features of Hutterite furniture were those which were created on lathes. In other instances, the use of different woods created pleasing visual effects, yet did not leave the maker open to accusations of 'worldliness'. In addition to a varnished finish, many pieces of Hutterite furniture were painted in bright colours emphasising the simplicity of form in each piece. So although Hutterite furniture-makers were not concerned with elegant design or construction, they did bring beauty to their craft without compromising their religious beliefs.

It is also in the Hutterite communities in Canada that the greatest volume of needlework was produced in the late 19th century. Handkerchiefs, towels or samplers were all decorated in a highly skilled manner. The 'alphabet towel' was a common item, both used to decorate the home and as a learning tool by the young girls of the colony.

There is evidence that earlier pre-emigration Hutterites created elaborate pottery designs and furniture with ornamental patterns. The trend in Western Canada, however, led away from the artistic to the utilitarian.

Of all the utopian communities it is the Hutterites who have survived longest. Although their economic life has progressed and they have kept abreast of developments in work skills and technologies, their religious beliefs have remained constant and they have managed to remain true to their original philosophy. Although houses of the first settlers lost their distinctiveness once they established in Manitoba, the Hutterites' mode of dress, customs and language did not. To this day they remain symbolic of 'belonging' to the community. ✦

The Alaska Highway,

a 1486 mile – 365 day party



Overlooking Kaskawulsh Glacier in Kluane National Park – one of the most dramatic backdrops along the Alaska Highway.

The original road had 233 bridges.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the completion of the original, single lane pioneer Alaska Highway. An immense engineering achievement in its time, the construction was only prompted by the outbreak of war. Now, the governments of British Columbia, The Yukon and Alaska, through whose territory the highway passes, are honouring the occasion with a year-long series of celebrations.

The story begins

In 1940 there was no direct land route from the USA to The Yukon or Alaska. All but the most determined were denied access here, discouraged by an impenetrable wilderness. World War II changed all that.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and their occupation of the Aleutian Islands, it became a question of 'how quickly?' could the highway be built. Under the famous Lend Lease Programme some 8000 aircraft were being ferried to Fairbanks in Alaska, where they were picked up by Russian crews for flights to the Siberian front. It was therefore imperative to have an overland corridor carrying men and materials to this remote spot – a vital supply line from Canada and the USA.

Construction began on March 9, 1942.

Hardship and heroism

At the peak of construction in the summer of '42, 11 500 troops, 7500 civilians and 11 000 pieces of equipment were deployed on the road, overcoming almost insurmountable problems. Machinery broke down, bridges were washed away, tractors and trucks disappeared into bottomless muskeg and swamps. But the crews battled on against geography and the elements, building 8000 culverts and 133 log and pontoon bridges over glacial streams and raging rivers. On the original road there were 233 bridges spanning rivers and creeks, the longest being 2130 feet across the Peace River.



1942-1992



From Whitehorse to Alaska, the Klondike Highway 2 is an alternative to the Alaska Highway 1. Many travellers choose to go one way and return the other.

But the job had to be finished before the winter temperatures halted work — and so it was. From Mile 0 at Dawson Creek in British Columbia, through The Yukon to Fairbanks, Alaska, a distance of nearly 1500 miles, the highway was completed in just 8 months flat.

What a testimony to the determination of all those soldiers and civilians who built it!

A road to northern adventure

Nowadays travellers find a modern all-weather highway with towns, visitor services, campsites, places of historic interest, accommodation and amenities. \$20 million is spent annually maintaining the road and it has been constantly upgraded during the past 50 years. The worst thing about the Alaska Highway is its reputation. True there are still sections of the original road with gravel loops and wooden bridges, but the Highway is now more a road through wilderness than a wilderness road.

The Highway is a picture postcard of spectacular scenery — sprawling grainfields, towering mountains, northern forest, wildlife and wildflowers. It's a mosaic of the people who run lodges, fly bush planes, man oil rigs, and drive lorries. It holds a treasure store of sidetrips, hiking trails, sled runs, fishing lodges and camping sites alongside crystal clear streams.



Photo: Pierre St-Jacques

'There's a land — oh it beckons, and I want to go back — and I will' — Robert Service

Much of the Highway passes through the dramatic scenery of The Yukon — a land associated with the Klondike Gold Rush of the 1890's and the poetry of Robert Service. A magical, mysterious land, it is said to bind the soul and never let go.

Taking its name from the Indian word 'duike — on' meaning clear water, The Yukon Territory occupies Canada's northwesternmost corner. Bounded by the Beaufort Sea, Alaska, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories, it has the highest mountain range in North America and the largest non-polar ice fields in the world. A number of impressive national parks are located along the way including Kluane National Park known for its spectacular mountain beauty. Lakes and glaciers

A double conquest of the Northwest Passage

On October 11, this year, Canadians will celebrate another 50th anniversary; the completion of an epic voyage from west to east through the Northwest Passage by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police schooner the St. Roch.

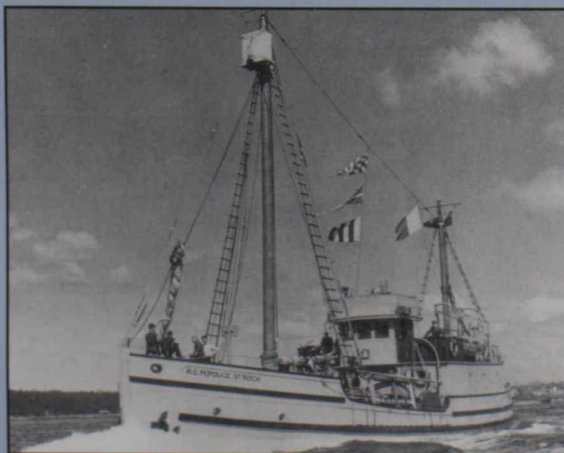
Since Martin Frobisher in 1576, British explorers and adventurers probed the Arctic waters in search of a passage to Asia. The uncertainties and hardships of these voyages turned back many veteran seamen short of their goal. The famed Sir John Franklin seemed best trained and equipped to accomplish the task when he set out in 1845, but he perished along with all his men. Later, Robert

McClure navigated a route through the Arctic Islands but it was left to the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen to complete the first east to west transit of the Northwest Passage in 1906.

In the 1940s, a Canadian ship in the service of the RCMP proved its mastery of the Northwest Passage. Built in 1928, the St. Roch was a wooden-hulled supply ship used to service police detachments in the far north. It set out from Vancouver in June 1928, under its captain Henry Larsen, bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia. Attempting to become the first vessel to cross the Northwest Passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic, it encountered heavy ice. Larsen and his crew spent two winters frozen in the Arctic before arriving at their destination on Oct. 11, 1942. Then, in the summer of 1944, the St. Roch became the first ship to traverse the Arctic in both directions when it crossed the Northwest Passage again, this time in a westerly direction on a voyage which took a mere 86 days.

Focus for the commemoration this year will be the St. Roch National Historic Site in Vancouver, where the vessel is preserved on display at the Maritime Museum. Local celebrations will also be held in Ottawa, Halifax and Cambridge Bay in the Northwest Territories. The RCMP will mark the occasion by publishing a special booklet detailing the exploits of the St. Roch. The celebrations take place under the banner of the 125th anniversary of Canadian confederation.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police schooner St. Roch off the coast of British Columbia in the 1940s. This vessel was the first to traverse the Northwest Passage from west to east — and later the first to make the round trip.



The Alaska Highway *continued*



Picnic site at Emerald Lake near Whitehorse.

RIGHT: Dawson City, at the confluence of the Klondyke and Yukon Rivers, was the centre of the gold rush in 1896. Today the former Yukon capital is home to 1600 year round residents, but at its peak it had a population of some 30000 miners and adventure seekers.

abound and on a clear day it's possible to see Canada's highest peak, Mount Logan (19980 ft).

Side trips along less travelled routes add another dimension to a journey through this part of The Yukon. Take for instance the Campbell Highway which winds its way 374 miles from Watson Lake to Carmacks. This diversion gives the option of driving a broad circle returning to Whitehorse, capital of The Yukon, via the Klondike Highway. Alternatively, one can press on to Dawson City, scene of the world's most famous gold strikes and now authentically recreated to preserve the history and memories of those exciting days.

Rendezvous '92

And excitement will take many forms this summer as the Alaska Highway celebrates its 50th anniversary. A year-long series of events include the opening ceremonies at Dawson Creek, float plane rallies and international air shows along the route. During July an 'Airmada' will re-enact this famous route with vintage and modern aircraft. The sky's the limit!

Community events take place in each township along the Highway commencing with the Alaska Challenge Snowmobile Safari in February and finishing with the Rededication Ceremonies at Soldiers Summit on November 20.


So, whether or not you've visited The Yukon before, make a date to Rendezvous with Nature in Canada's north this summer by travelling the beautiful Alaska Highway. 



Photo: Egon Bank

