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- Promising new leads in diabetes research, 1
- Promotion in Pacific Rim, 2
- "Rooftop-to-rooftop" satellite links Europe and Canada, 3
- Canadian farm machinery featured at SIMA '84, 3
- US-Canada set trade targets, 3
- Teletex service to Sweden, 4
- Canadian lobster wins culinary praise in Switzerland, 4
- Maryon Pearson art collection, 4
- Credit agreement with Colombia, 4
- Amphibian plane from compact kit provides challenge for amateur aircraft builders, 5
- Vancouver architect wins French gold medal, 5
- Victoria to host soccer games, 5
- Olympic medallists at the fourteenth Winter Games, 6
- Videotex stock prices complete with coloured graphics, 6
- Stratford Festival announces its 1984 line-up, 6
- News of the arts — poems, prize, exhibit, 7
- Good-bye Sarajevo: hello Calgary!, 8
- News briefs, 8

Promising new leads in diabetes research

Two Canadian research teams have made dramatic breakthroughs in the treatment and cure of diabetes.

At Connaught Laboratories near Toronto, researchers have discovered a possible cure for diabetes in the form of plastic-coated animal cells that do the work of a healthy, insulin-producing pancreas.

And, at University Hospital in London, Ontario, researchers believe that diabetes may be arrested if treated early enough by a powerful experimental drug, cyclosporine, developed for use in organ transplants.

Connaught's success

Diabetic rats injected with the plastic-coated cells are thriving at Connaught Laboratories and scientists say there is every reason to believe their microscopic creations will be just as effective in people. They hope to have them ready for widespread use within four or five years.

Researchers are also using the coating technique to encase liver, pituitary and kidney cells that could be used to replace failed or ailing organs.

Scientists have long been able to transplant cells, but the receiving patient's natural protection against foreign bodies would destroy them. The coating technique prevents that.

In diabetics, the pancreas stops producing insulin which is needed to regulate blood sugar. Use of the coated cells would be vastly superior to insulin injections. Long-term injections forestall death but do not prevent serious complications, including blindness.

The Connaught Laboratories experiments indicate the cells prevent these complications because whole pancreatic islets — four-cell clusters that produce the various hormones needed to properly regulate blood-sugar levels — are encased.

Research team leader Dr. Anthony Sun says patients thus get all the benefit of the biochemical feats the cells per-



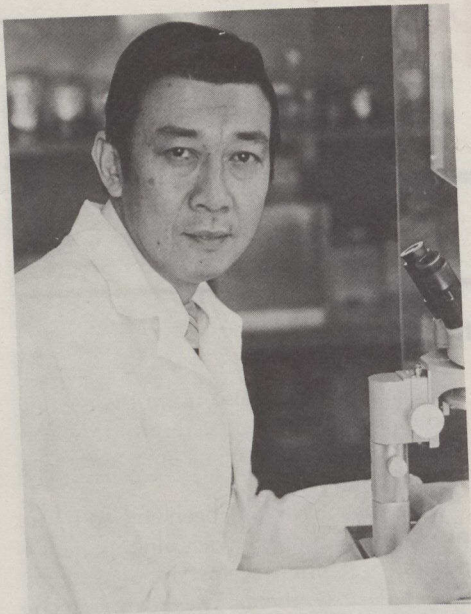
Dr. Anthony Sun (left) of Connaught Laboratories Ltd., at work with technician Helen Van Rooy, is one of the world's leading pioneers in diabetes research.

Connaught Laboratories



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Connaught Laboratories

Dr. Anthony Sun, discoverer of the plastic-coated animal cells that do the work of a healthy, insulin-producing pancreas.

form — feats “so fine-tuned and naturally beautiful” — that he doubts they will ever be duplicated in the test tube.

Connaught Laboratories, partly owned by the federal government through the Canada Development Corporation, plans to spend about \$50 million in the next few years stepping up research and cell production so that human trials of coated cells can begin as soon as possible.

Specialists say the implications of the plastic cell work could be staggering. Not only could North America’s five million diabetics be freed from needles and the complications associated with insulin injections, but the breakthrough could mean relief for millions of people with kidney and liver disease.

“I hate the words breakthrough and cure,” says Dr. William Cochrane, the company chairman, “but this work is extremely exciting.... I would have to say it is one of the most significant things Connaught has done since the early work on insulin.”

Fredrick Banting and Charles Best, who worked at Connaught when it was still a branch of the University of Toronto, shared the 1923 Nobel Prize in medicine for discovering insulin, the essential hormone produced in the pancreas that controls sugar absorption in the body.

Thanks to Charles Best, with whom he rubbed shoulders at the University of Toronto in the 1960s, Dr. Sun became obsessed with finding a cure for diabetes, caused when pancreatic cells break down.

New experimental drug

In trials at London, Ontario’s University Hospital, last year, 16 of 30 newly diagnosed victims of the most serious form of diabetes have been able to stop taking insulin after beginning daily oral doses of the drug cyclosporine.

Results of the project were released recently at a meeting of the Association for the Study of Diabetes in Switzerland by Dr. Cal Stiller, a transplant researcher at the hospital and the University of Western Ontario in London.

Dr. Stiller said the study showed that 60 per cent of the diabetics, all of whom began treatment within six weeks of diagnosis of their disease, gradually required less insulin treatment. Over time, the 16 were able to eliminate the need for daily insulin injections.

Dr. Stiller’s research team said this did not mean the disease had been cured, but that it may have been arrested to the point that patients’ bodies were able to resume adequate production of insulin to control blood-sugar levels. Most of the remaining 14 patients still require low-dose insulin treatment.

The study produced markedly better results than an earlier one in which only two of 11 patients were able to stop insulin treatment. That group, however, involved patients who did not begin cyclosporine treatments until between two and 11 months after diagnosis of their disease.

Dr. Stiller said a larger trial involving up to 200 newly diagnosed patients is needed to see if similar results can be produced and his group has applied for



Canapress

Sandra Grant of London, Ontario with her son Lee, a victim of a serious form of diabetes. Lee no longer requires daily insulin shots thanks to the revolutionary new drug cyclosporine.

money from the Medical Research Council of Canada to start such a trial involving patients and medical teams in Vancouver, Calgary, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Montreal, Halifax and London. He said it would probably take ten to 15 years to determine what effect the drug had.

Severe diabetics have a shortened life expectancy as well as complications ranging from blindness to heart and kidney disease.

Cyclosporine is a fungus-based drug which has been used with a high degree of success at the London hospital during the last four years on patients receiving transplants.

Dr. Stiller said the main objective is to prove if the drug can arrest the process of diabetes in which islets of Langerhans, which produce insulin in the pancreas, are destroyed.

He said diabetes caused the same kind of damage to that part of the body as is seen in a transplanted organ being rejected by the recipient’s body.

Cause a mystery

The exact cause of diabetes remains a mystery, the researchers said, but there is a theory it is started by a virus and it may also be a so-called auto-immune disease in which the body begins to reject its own natural tissues as if they were foreign.

If the process of islet destruction in diabetes can be arrested, the drug could have profound implications in treating other auto-immune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and certain kidney and blood diseases, according to Dr. Stiller. His group is using the drug on a small number of multiple sclerosis patients, but it is too early to tell how successful the program is.

Promotion in Pacific Rim

A Calgary-based company has reached an agreement with a firm in Hong Kong to promote sales of energy technology and services in Pacific Rim countries.

Bob Watson, president of Asiatic and Pacific Trading Co. Ltd. of Calgary, says Wang Tak Engineering and Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong will join a consortium of Canadian companies exploring business opportunities in the Pacific Rim.

The consortium plans to concentrate on China but also hopes to do business in Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia and Japan.

"Rooftop-to-rooftop" satellite links Europe and Canada

A "rooftop-to-rooftop" satellite service that provides businesses with inexpensive communication links between Europe and North America without going through intermediaries will be offered this month by Teleglobe Canada — Canada's member of Intelsat.

Satellite services

Several of Intelsat's other 108 members are expected to follow Teleglobe's lead and offer the same service later this year. Intelsat is a 20-year-old co-operative organization that provides satellite services for international voice, data and video traffic.

The Intelsat Business Service parries potential competition from companies seeking to offer similar services between North America and Europe.

It will be retailed to Canadian customers as Globesat by Teleglobe Canada of Montreal, Canada's only inter-

national communications carrier.

Normally, overseas telephone calls are made at considerable expense through domestic telephone networks that hook up with Teleglobe's international gateway. Under the regulations governing Telesat Canada — the domestic satellite carrier — business customers are required to lease capacity from a telephone company at retail prices instead of directly at wholesale prices.

First of its kind

The Bank of Montreal will be the first IBS user, leasing part of a satellite channel to link Toronto and London. The service is the first of its kind to be offered by Intelsat's members and is one of the first to allow Canadian business users to deal directly with Teleglobe.

The Bank of Montreal expects to save between 20 and 40 per cent on earth station charges alone. Satellite charges

are on a *per circuit* basis. Charges for each circuit increase according to the transmission speed required.

The bank has already begun testing the service and expects to begin operating in early March, initially using its channel for voice and data transmission. Electronic mail, funds transfer, and audio-graphic and video teleconferencing may be added later, according to George Hopkins, the bank's senior vice-president for operations and systems.

US-Canada set trade targets

International Trade Minister Gerald Regan and US Trade Representative William Brock have identified four areas in which Canada and the United States could have free trade.

Officials of the two countries will work together to bring out an interim report in early May on the prospects for liberalizing trade in steel, agricultural equipment, computer and information services, and government procurement, particularly mass transit vehicles.

Canadian officials are also analyzing trade in petrochemicals and textiles, Mr. Regan told reporters after a recent meeting with Mr. Brock in Washington.

"We recognize that the ongoing analysis by both groups of officials will identify other sectors that may be suitable candidates for trade liberalization measures," Mr. Regan said.

The two top trade officials will meet again in May. Mr. Brock said it is possible they could sign a free-trade agreement this year.

Mr. Brock said the United States might like to add electrical equipment to the list of free-trade sectors.

He said private businessmen would have to agree to any liberalization, but "I'd like to expand free trade in any area that Canada wants to expand trade".

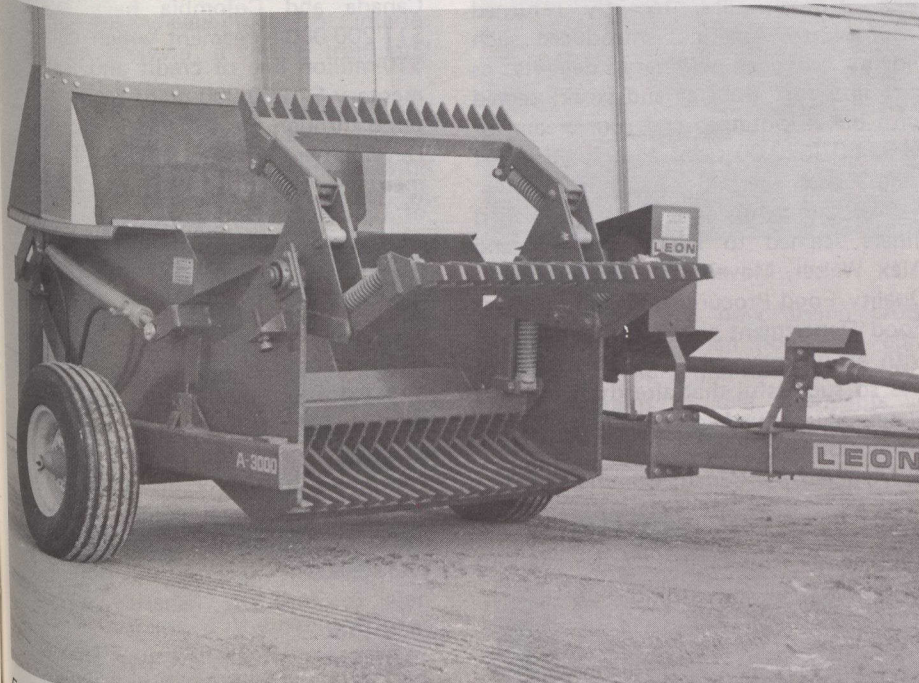
The talks followed from the sectoral free-trade initiative Mr. Regan proposed last August.

Both Mr. Regan and Mr. Brock said their moves toward trade liberalization are a positive model for the world at a time when protectionism is increasing.

About 80 per cent of Canadian exports to the United States are duty-free now, as are 65 per cent of US exports to Canada.

The agreement also provides for compensating exporters hurt by such restrictions and calls for compensation cases to be settled within a year.

Canadian farm machinery featured at SIMA '84



Eight Canadian companies are taking part in SIMA '84, the world's leading farm machinery fair being held at the Parc des Expositions, Porte de Versailles, Paris, from March 4 to 11, 1984. Included in the exhibition is the rotary rockpicker (above) made by Leon Manufacturing Co. Ltd. It is designed to pick up rocks from five to 50 centimetres easily while dumping of the huge capacity hopper is completely hydraulic. The Canadian farm machinery industry currently produces more than \$1.2-billion worth of equipment and machinery a year of which more than 90 per cent is exported. The largest market is the United States, but Canadian farm machinery can be found all over the world including Australia and the People's Republic of China, as well as several countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Teletex service to Sweden

Teleglobe Canada, which first introduced overseas Teletex a year ago with service to Germany, has extended its Teletex service to Sweden. Teletex is a bi-directional message service based on an international standard that allows word processors, electronic memory typewriters or other office text machines incorporating the Teletex standard to communicate with each other.

Teletex is one of the fastest public message services available. It takes less than ten seconds for a typical business letter to travel between Canada and

overseas offices. A Teletex call costs 20 cents for each six seconds of transmission time with a minimum charge of \$1 a transmission. Approximately 7 000 characters (two to three pages) can be sent overseas for the minimum \$1 transmission charge.

Canadian users can link up to Teletex terminals in Germany and Sweden via Teleglobe Canada's Globedat public data network and CNCP's Infoswitch data network. Teleglobe Canada expects to extend the international Teletex service to other Scandinavian countries as well as other countries in Europe and in the Pacific.

Canadian lobster wins culinary praise in Switzerland

One of the highlights of dining in Switzerland and West Germany last summer was the promotion campaign for Canadian lobster presented by a Swiss restaurant chain, Mövenpick. An estimated 22 000 meals were sold by Mövenpick restaurants in major population centres such as Zurich, Basle, Lausanne, Berne, Geneva, Lucerne, Ticino and St. Gall.

Clearwater Lobsters Ltd. of Halifax supplied the delicacy and Air Canada shipped an estimated 5.5 tonnes to Switzerland and a further 8 tonnes to West Germany, all consumed by enthusiastic diners.

The lobster was flown in live from Halifax to Zurich three times a week. Purchases were co-ordinated through Mövenpick's central buying office.

Participating restaurants featured the same menu and, for SF16.80 (\$10.00 Cdn), one could have half a lobster (approximately 250 grams) served with a "vaucuse" salad (a Mövenpick creation with celery branches, beans, small car-

rots, mushrooms and mayonnaise). A choice of sauces accompanied the dish — "lemon mousseline", with pieces of lemon and cream; "rouille-sherry", garlic mayonnaise with sweet peppers in sherry; "mousseline with crustacea", lobster sauce with whipped cream and cognac.

In addition, Mövenpick's chef in Berne Max Brunschweiler, recently returned from North America, introduced such North American culinary delights as surf and turf (lobster and steak) served with baked potatoes and sour cream for SF32.50 (\$20.00 Cdn) and, for the first time, lobster thermidor.

Was the campaign a success? Satisfied diners seemed to indicate it was and Alex Walser, Mövenpick's vice-president, Quality Food Procurement, and director, Food Department answered the question with an unequivocal "Yes"! He added it was so successful that already his firm is planning a further Canadian lobster promotion next June.

(Article from Canada Commerce.)

Maryon Pearson art collection

The Maryon Pearson art collection of Canadian paintings was unveiled recently at 7 Rideau Gate in Ottawa, the official government guest house.

Mrs. Maryon Pearson, widow of the late Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, did much to encourage the work of contemporary Canadian artists and to foster an appreciation of the work of earlier and less well known Canadians in the fields of the visual and plastic arts and crafts. She donated the paintings to the Department of External Affairs with which she and her family have been associated for so long.

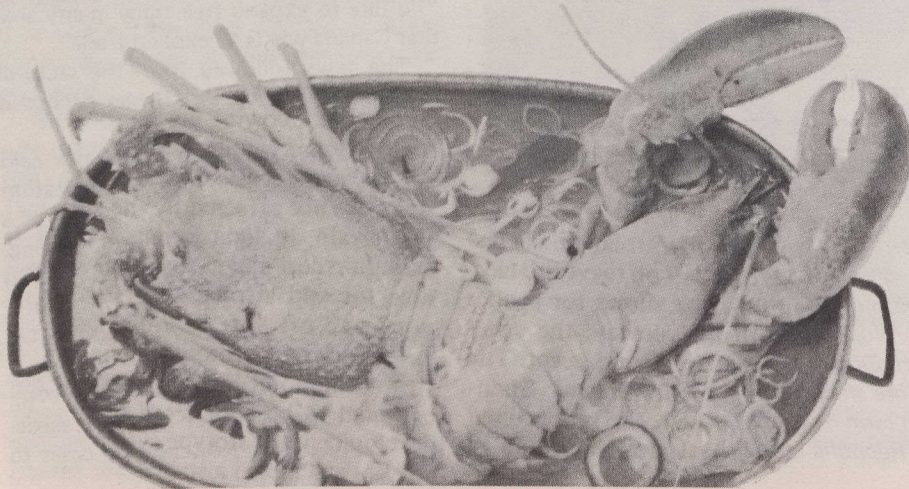
The collection will be displayed at 7 Rideau Gate for the enjoyment of distinguished visitors from abroad and their Canadian hosts. The collection includes a sculpture by Gerald Gladstone and two paintings by A.Y. Jackson and William Kurelek.

Credit agreement with Colombia

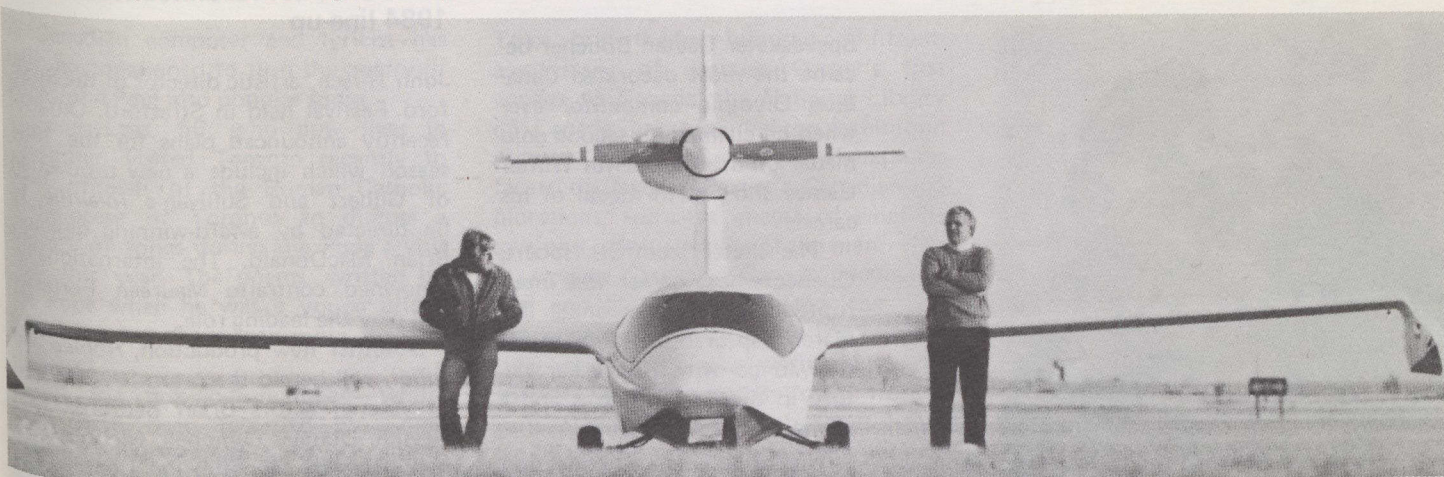
Canada and Colombia have signed a \$11 200 000-agreement which calls for a \$10-million line of credit and a complementary \$1 200 000 grant to be administered through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The agreement was signed by the Foreign Minister of Colombia, Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, who was visiting Ottawa, and Canadian Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen.

Colombia, which has been adversely affected by the oil crisis, will use the needed foreign exchange to purchase Canadian goods and services vital to its continuing battle for industrial diversification and regional economic development. In particular, Colombia will focus on Canada's expertise and competitiveness in forestry, fisheries and agro-industries.

The project will have two phases. The first will lend money to medium and small enterprises. These were identified by a 1982 multi-donor study as the main hope for Colombian economic and industrial development. The second phase will use funds thus generated for further loans to labour intensive micro-industries. An estimated 1 150 such enterprises could benefit from financial assistance within the first five years, another 1 000 within ten years.



Amphibian plane from compact kit provides challenge for amateur aircraft builders



Kirk Creelman (left) and his father Len, with their Seawind prototype during testing in Ottawa last year.

Canada is the home of a large and active community of aircraft "homebuilders" — pilots and other enthusiasts who purchase small pleasure aircraft in kit form and invest one, two or more years in assembling them.

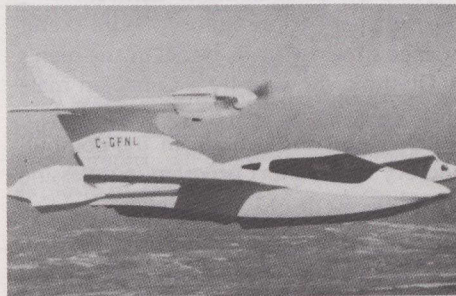
Not surprisingly, then, a homebuilt-aircraft kit whose design is one of the sleekest and most interesting anywhere is now under development in Ontario. Called the *Seawind*, it can fly from land or water.

"This aircraft has been evolving for the past ten years," says Len Creelman, who with his brother Roger runs Seawind International located in the town of Haliburton in northern Ontario.

"We had many hurdles to clear before it was even permissible to use fiberglass as the primary aircraft structure, and the demands of an amphibious craft have required several design modifications."

By 1982, a flyable prototype *Seawind* was a reality. The brothers had always wanted the four-seat aircraft to be simple

to build but offer a relatively high cruising speed. So the lines of the airplane are very sleek, and the engine is suspended on a pylon jutting forward from the swept-back vertical tail instead of being perched atop the cabin as is usually the case.



The Seawind in flight.

The prototype now flying cruises at 270 kilometres an hour, can climb at 290 metres a minute and can carry 408 kilograms of fuel, occupants and cargo across a range of more than 1 000 kilometres.

As aircraft kits go, the *Seawind* will eliminate many homebuilder headaches, because all major structural components will be provided pre-formed for the \$18 000 price. It will cost the builder another \$12 000 or so for an engine (the 200-hp Lycoming IO-360 is recommended), propeller and instrumentation. Total man-hours required for construction are estimated at 1 000.

Manufacturing aircraft — even in kit form — is a business venture fraught with obstacles and financial pitfalls, but Len and Roger Creelman may just have a winning design in the *Seawind*. In the words of the test pilot's report:

"It has proven to be a safe aircraft to fly at all times, with no vices, and is, in my opinion, suitable for pilots of all categories. Its performance would do credit to the majority of pure land-based aircraft of its class while, for an amphibian, it is nothing short of remarkable."

(From Ontario Business News.)

Vancouver architect wins French gold medal

France's Académie d'Architecture has announced that architect Arthur Erickson of Vancouver, British Columbia, will be this year's recipient of its gold medal for architecture.

The award is presented annually to an architect or artist who has made a substantial contribution internationally to the quality of architecture.

Previous recipients include United States architects I.M. Pei, Kevin Roch and J. Luis Sert. Last year's award went to German architect Gottfried Boehm.

Arthur Erickson will be presented with the medal formally in Paris on June 26. His recently completed projects include Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto, the Napp Pharmaceuticals building in Cambridge, England and the renovation of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Projects now under way include the new Islamic University of Medina, Saudi Arabia; the new Canadian embassy in Washington and California Plaza, a major mixed-use complex encompassing 11 acres of the central core of Los Angeles.

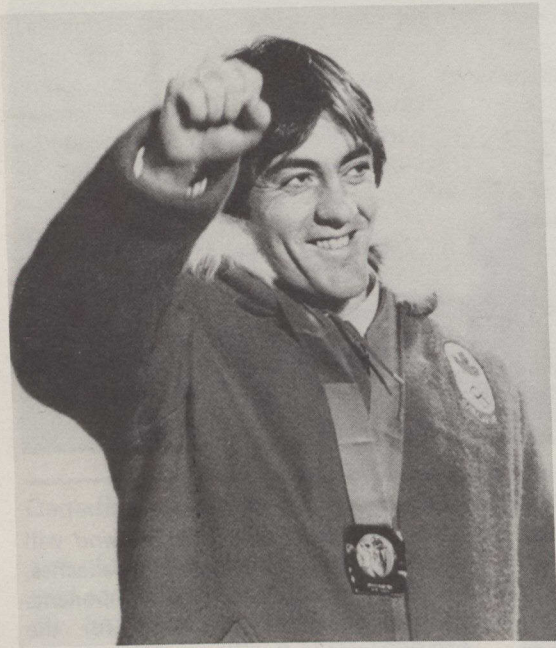
Victoria to host soccer games

The Canadian Soccer Association has announced that Victoria will be the site of Canada's two home games of the Olympic soccer qualifying tournament in April.

Canada, hoping to make its third Olympic soccer appearance, will play host to Cuba April 14 and Costa Rica four days later.

The Canadian squad will play its away game against Costa Rica, April 1 in San Jose, California, and against Cuba in Havana, April 25.

Olympic medallists at the fourteenth Winter Games



Gaetan Boucher gives victory salute after receiving gold medal for the 1 500-metre speedskating event.

While Canadians at home were still celebrating Boucher's triple victory, figure skater Brian Orser turned in an almost flawless performance to win a silver medal in the men's figure skating event. His medal marks the best Olympic showing by a Canadian male figure skater.

The 22-year-old Orser from Penetanguishene, Ontario, was seventh in the compulsory figures, moved up to fifth over all with a victory in the short program, outclassing world champion Scott Hamilton of the US to jump three spots in the standings.

Videotex stock prices complete with coloured graphics

Teleglobe Canada is expanding its Telidon-based videotex service to offer daily price information on 5 000 stocks listed on six exchanges in Canada and the United States.

The financial service, called stock-charting, will allow subscribers to analyze the performance of the companies listed on the Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, New York and American stock exchanges with coloured graphics.

McLeod Young Weir Ltd. of Toronto will supply and update the information, including an evaluation of investment prospects for major Canadian stocks.

"We're not just telling you about the stock, but what to do with it," said David Johansen, product manager for financial services at Teleglobe.

The financial service is available on Teleglobe's Novatex database and access can be gained over normal or data telephone lines from a wide variety of

Speedskater Gaetan Boucher became the most decorated Canadian Olympic competitor ever when he claimed his second gold medal of the fourteenth Winter Games and fourth medal of his career.

The skater from St. Hubert, Quebec whose career was interrupted by a broken ankle last March, captured the 1 500-metre title to go with his earlier victory in the 1 000 metres and a bronze medal in the 500.

His 1984 Olympic collection surpassed the total Canadian performance of the 1980 Winter Games at Lake Placid, New York, where he won a silver medal in the 1 000 and skier Steve Podborski of Toronto gained a bronze in the downhill ski event.

No other Canadian Olympian has ever won four medals in Winter or Summer Games.

terminals. It is compatible with the Personal Computer of International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) of Armonk, New York.

Novatex is an international videotex business information service that also includes corporate information and access to business newswires.

For \$50 a month, subscribers can get information from a general database on commodities markets or the top 500 Canadian companies. Access can be gained anywhere in the world through Teleglobe's operations for international communications. Teleglobe is Canada's only international carrier and provides transmission services *via* submarine cable and satellite.

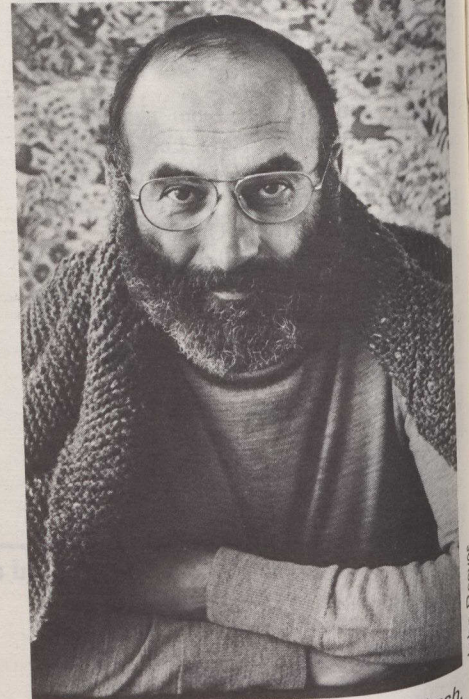
The chart service costs \$100 a month; it provides a colour graph of a company's performance over 100 days, 100 weeks or 100 months, as well as the daily information.

Stratford Festival announces its 1984 line-up

John Hirsch, artistic director of the Stratford Festival held in Stratford, Ontario, recently announced plans for the 1984 season which include a new production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* to be directed by award-winning director, Brian MacDonald. The internationally-renowned contralto Maureen Forrester will play the leading role.

Another new production, *Romeo and Juliet*, will herald the return to Stratford of veteran actors Brian Bedford, John Neville, Douglas Campbell, Nicholas Pennell, Richard Monette, Pat Conolly, Pat Galloway, Domini Blythe and Amelia Hall. Miss Hall was the first actress to speak on the Stratford stage in its 1952 inaugural season.

The 1984 opening production will be *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, to be directed by John Hirsch and designed by Desmond Heeley. It will open June 10 and will star Brian Bedford as Bottom, Diego Matamoros as Puck and Pat Conolly with Nicholas Pennell in the two leading roles.



Stratford's artistic director John Hirsch.

Iolanthe will open at the Avon Theatre June 11 and last year's highly-successful production of *The Gondliers*, also directed by Brian MacDonald, will open June 14. *The Mikado*, Brian MacDonald's first festival hit, will begin an unprecedented third season at the Avon Theatre on July 12.

News of the arts

Canadian sets Pope's poems to music

A Canadian composer and lyricist has been commissioned to turn the poetry of Pope John Paul into popular songs.

Gene Lees, 56, who now lives in California, visited Toronto recently to meet officials of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto to discuss a concert of songs during the Pope's visit later this year. The poems, written by the Pope when he was a young priest, have been translated into more than 90 languages.

But the task before Lees — whose songs have been recorded by Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Peggy Lee — is to make them suitable for singing.

"I've read them in four languages now," said Gene Lees, who was born in Hamilton, Ontario. "They're very beautiful and moving, humanist more than spiritual. I hope I can bring them to a wider audience."

The project was awarded to Lees about two years ago through the Vatican after several other composers were rejected.

"The problem was that the poetry is in such free form that there's no pattern to the rhythms," he said. "Nobody could lick them. I had the same problem and I was inclined to give up. Then a composer named Tito Fontana worked it out and licked it."

Gene Lees has translated eight of ten poems by the Pope and says the Vatican is enthusiastic about them.

Alberta artist wins in Tokyo

Jean Richards, an artist from Edmonton, Alberta, has won a prize in the prestigious *Tokyo Times* calligraphy exhibition.

"I just couldn't believe it when I was notified," she said. "Imagine, an artist from Edmonton, Alberta, winning in a competition based on an Oriental art form."

Jean Richards was the only non-Japanese artist in the exhibition, and the only Canadian. Entering the competition came about through a woman she met during last summer's World University Games held in Edmonton.

The woman took several of Jean Richards' works back to Japan and showed them to the curator of the exhibition who, in turn, invited her to participate.

Major exhibit marks Jacques Cartier's first voyage to Canada

To celebrate the four-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of Jacques Cartier's first voyage to Canada, the National Library of Canada has mounted an exhibition *Jacques Cartier in Canada*, which explores facets of Jacques Cartier's Canadian explorations, recreates images of what he saw, and offers a profile of the man.

Jacques Cartier in Canada documents the conditions that greeted the first French explorers of North America as they sought the elusive westward passage to Asia. With materials drawn from a variety of sources in both hemispheres, it illustrates the natural and human factors that first drew Cartier and his party down the St. Lawrence River as far west as the present site of Montreal.

The exhibition is divided into five parts. After outlining the political and economic background of westward exploration in the early fifteenth century, it treats in detail various aspects of Cartier's three voyages, from relations with the natives to the health of the unsuspecting Europeans as they faced their first Canadian winter. The last section focuses on Jacques Cartier the man.

A wide range of manuscripts, drawings, paintings, sculpture, maps, plans, and photographs, all help to illuminate the exploits of Jacques Cartier.

A large photo of the excavation by H. Ingstad (1960-67) at L'Anse, confirming the existence on the coast of Newfoundland of a village founded by the Vikings from Greenland around 1000 B.C., dominates the first section.

With its mounded grassy forms, it is a green and ghostly reminder of a human



PAC, C-43934

settlement that had existed and vanished long before Cartier set out at the behest of François I in search of "certain islands and lands where it is said that a great quantity of gold and other precious things are to be found".

Jacques Cartier made two exploratory voyages to Canada in 1534 and 1535. In 1541 he returned not only to further his knowledge about the area but also to establish a colony.

Jacques Cartier in Canada is open until March 31, 1984, at the National Library, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa. The exhibition will then move to the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris where it will open in May. It will also be shown in Saint-Malo, Jacques Cartier's birthplace and at the Canadian consulates general in Marseille, Bordeaux and Strasbourg.



Jacques Cartier planting a cross on Canadian soil.

PAC, C-3278

Good-bye Sarajevo: hello Calgary!



Vucko the wolf, the symbol for the fourteenth Winter Olympic Games, makes his farewell performance during the closing ceremonies in Sarajevo. With him is Howdy the bear who will be the symbol for the next winter games to be held in Calgary, Alberta in 1988.

News briefs

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain will pay an official visit to Canada March 12 to 18. The king has been in Canada several times skiing and fishing, but it will be the first official visit of Spanish royalty to Canada.

More than 400 delegates and observers are expected to attend the second Canadian Mineral Outlook Conference to be held May 15 at the Government Conference Centre in Ottawa. Mines Minister William Rompkey, noting that the first such conference, held in May 1983, drew together senior representatives of industry and government, said that it was important "that Canada have a forum where industry and government can discuss the future outlook".

The federal government has converted its 20-year-old telephone system into an enhanced exchange wide dial (EEWD) system using three digital switches based in Ottawa. The implementation of the new system is the result of a joint project between Bell Canada, a unit of Bell Canada Enterprises Inc. of Montreal, and

the Government Telecommunications Agency run by the federal Department of Communications. The system uses three digital DMS-100 switches manufactured by Northern Telecom Ltd. of Mississauga, Ont., and features automatic route selection, three-way conferencing, detailed call recording and call transfer.

A memorandum of understanding was signed recently between the government of Canada and the government of Jamaica under which a grant of approximately \$6 million will be used for the purchase of sardines and dried saltfish from Canada. A previous agreement last year provided for the purchase of canned sardines, green and dried saltfish and biscuit flour. Total Canadian development assistance to Jamaica during the present fiscal year will be approximately \$21 113 000 to be used for food, fertilizer, mini hydro construction, bridge reconstruction, hospital equipment and for small projects.

Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) has awarded a blanket order agreement, which could amount to approximately \$6 million (US), to Heroux Inc., Longueuil, Quebec, for

repair overhaul and/or modification of landing gear for the US Air Force. The service will be procured by CCC under the US-Canada Defence Production Sharing Arrangement. Heroux Inc. is the second largest source in North America for repair and overhaul of landing gear and has enjoyed this business from the US Air Force since the early Seventies.

A \$75-million grant made through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will upgrade safety standards at Caribbean airports. The project will affect some 22 airports in 13 Commonwealth Caribbean countries. Each country will enter into a separate agreement with CIDA to provide for the supply of Canadian equipment, the training of airport personnel, and the improvement of airport facilities. The project will concentrate on four areas: airport management and maintenance, fire fighting and rescue, telecommunications and navigational aids and runway improvements.

The Export Development Corporation has signed a \$15-million (US) line of credit agreement with the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank. It will help Canadian exporters competing for sales of capital goods and services in Bulgaria by providing their buyers with a simple and easily accessible credit facility through the bank.

The Royal Bank of Canada has started issuing its own gold and silver certificates through the bank's International Money Markets Group. Initially this new service, which requires a minimum transaction of 32 ounces of gold and 500 ounces of silver, is intended to meet the needs of corporate or personal investors wishing to hold precious metals in Canada with the Royal Bank. Over the next two years, the bank will gradually introduce a broader range of precious metal services.

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