

# Canada Weekly

Volume 6, No. 32

August 9, 1978



Ottawa, Canada

Canada's first national wilderness park created, 1

Foreign sales, 3

Ottawa gives to Year of the Child, 3

Royal party arrives in Newfoundland on way to Commonwealth Games, 3

Language regulations relaxed for some head offices in Quebec, 3

Calgary whoops it up at Stampede, 4

Canada proposes porpoise, dolphin protection with whaling pact, 5

Electronic blood hound, 5

Oil prices increased, 5

The new working class, 6

Canada on Soviet TV, 6

Toxic chemical ban, 6

News of the arts — Stratford, 7

News briefs, 8

## Canada's first national wilderness park created

The Northern Yukon is an arctic and subarctic wilderness of incredible beauty, a rich and varied ecosystem: nine million acres of land in its natural state, inhabited by thriving populations of plants and animals. This wilderness has come down through the ages, and it is a heritage that future generations, living in an industrial world even more complex than ours, will surely cherish.

Mr. Justice Thomas R. Berger

Some 38,700 km<sup>2</sup> (15,000 square miles) of the northern portion of the Yukon have been set aside for the creation of Canada's first national wilderness park.

Northern Affairs Minister Hugh Faulkner, who made the announcement on July 6, also said that a task force would formulate plans to manage the entire Canadian range of a 110,000-head Porcupine caribou herd, which migrate throughout the northern half of the Yukon, parts of the Northwest Territories and north-eastern Alaska.

"I have concluded that the conservation values of the region exceed the development potential and we must reserve all the land north of the Porcupine and Bell Rivers," said the minister. "This conclusion is supported by the recommendations of Justice Berger and evidence given the recent hearings by the National Energy Board," he added.

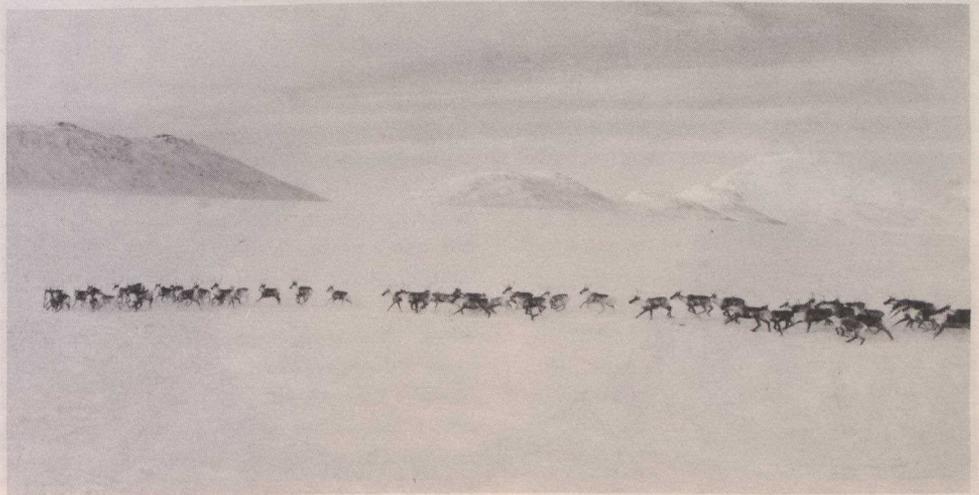
The minister also announced the Government's intention to discuss with the United States an international plan to

protect the caribou.

The action will not prejudice land claims discussions nor traditional native hunting, fishing and trapping activities in the area. Although the new plan stops further disposal of land under the Territorial Lands Act for oil and gas exploration, ends the sale or lease of surface rights, and prohibits entry for staking of mineral claims, it will not affect existing mineral claims and oil and gas interests.

### Importance of area

The key habitats for the huge international wildlife populations of the region run east-west across the Yukon-Alaska border. These are the coastal plains vital to migratory birds and caribou; the British, Barn, and Richardson Mountains vital to caribou; and the Old Crow and Yukon Flats of the Yukon River system vital to migratory birds. Because of this east-west orientation of habitats, neither Canada nor the U.S. can protect and manage their components separately. Therefore these



A herd of barren-ground caribou cross the snow-covered tundra in northern Yukon.

One hundred years ago tomorrow... Alexander Graham Bell placed the first, one-way long-distance telephone call in the world, from Brantford to Paris, Ontario, a distance of 12.8 kilometres.

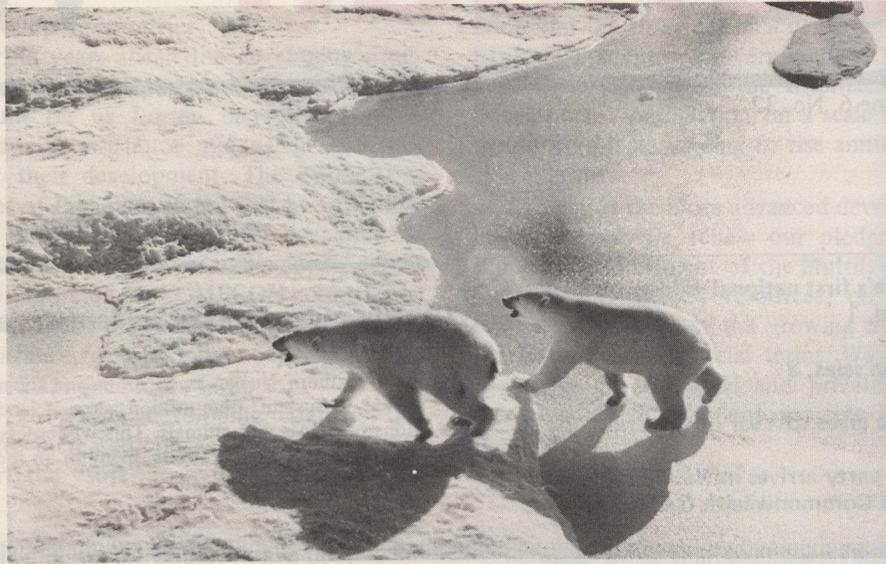
Aug. 9/78

habitats must be protected in a uniform manner as whole ecological systems extending across the border.

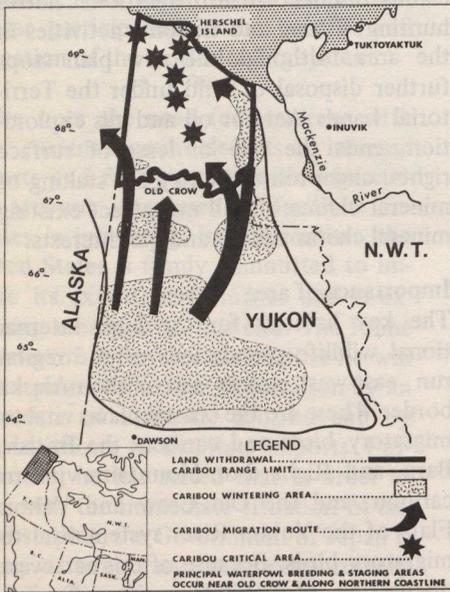
The Porcupine caribou herd, constituting some 20 per cent of North America's caribou, is one of the last great free roaming caribou herds in the world. Responsibility for its protection is shared jointly by Canada and the U.S.

The Yukon Coastal Plain and the Old Crow Flats provide essential habitat for several million migratory birds each summer and fall. They include geese, swans, ducks, loons, shorebirds, gulls and terns. These birds are, by treaty, the shared responsibility of the U.S. and Canada.

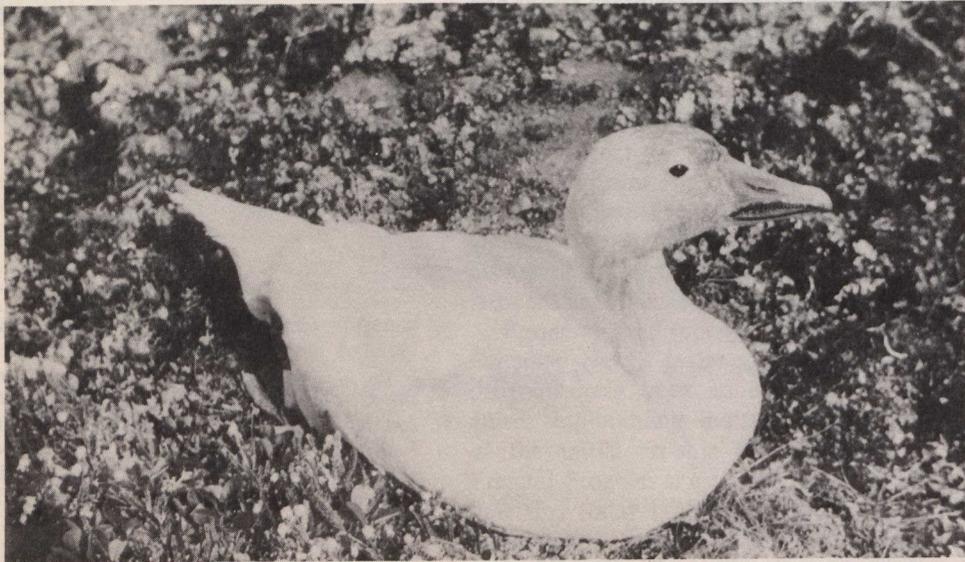
Other important species include the endangered peregrine falcon as well as polar bear, black bear, barren-ground grizzly, Dall's sheep, golden eagle, arctic char and chum salmon.



*Polar bears roam on the ice pans at Norwegian Bay, NWT.*



*An Arctic tern, Ellesmere Island, NWT.*



*Snowgoose, Bylot Island, NWT.*

Most of the area lies within the Beringian Refugium — an unglaciated area of Siberia, Alaska and the Yukon during the Illinoian and Wisconsin glaciations. It is the only extensive non-glaciated area in Canada and is perhaps the only area where Arctic tundra, alpine tundra and boreal forest can be observed in their natural condition in the same location. This absence of glaciation has resulted in the preservation of rich archaeological and palaeontological evidence which traces man's entrance into North America some 30,000 years ago. In fact, the oldest human remains yet discovered in the Western Hemisphere were in the Northern Yukon area. The continuous human history evolving in harmony with the environment since that time represents a rich legacy.

## Foreign sales

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has approved loans, export credits and surety insurance, as well as foreign investment guarantees totalling \$313.36 million to support prospective Canadian export sales of \$342.32 million to nine countries: Bolivia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, India, Iran, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and the United States.

The export sales that will result if commercial sales are finalized will create or maintain about 13,400 man-years of employment in Canada and involve at least 40 major suppliers across the country. Foreign investment guarantees approved for \$23.09 million are expected to bring benefits of \$31.50 million to Canada.

The transactions involve such goods and services as an electrical engineering project, pulp wood, fishery management, pharmaceutical facilities and mining engineering.

## Ottawa gives to Year of the Child

The Federal Government will contribute \$1 million to private industry for projects and activities for Canadian participation in the International Year of the Child.

The contribution, which is in addition to other projects being undertaken by federal departments, will be administered by a commission composed of representatives of the federal and provincial governments, voluntary organizations and citizens who have contributed to the improved wellbeing of children and families.

Minister of National Health and Welfare Monique Bégin says she will recommend to the commission that the federal contribution be used to support projects set aside for children's services involving both parents and children. "It is evident that families have pressing needs for particular services to assist them in the care required by children. It is hoped the Year of the Child will generate in each community a desire to develop these services," the minister said.

The national commission, in addition to administering the federal contribution, will endeavour to raise public and private funds to support Year of the Child activities and projects. It will also act as an information and resource centre for all groups interested in the Year.

## Royal party arrives in Newfoundland on way to Commonwealth Games



*Queen Elizabeth, on a 12-day visit to Canada, enters Memorial University dining hall to attend and address a dinner in St. John's, Newfoundland on July 28, two days after her arrival. Accompanying her is Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson. The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princes Andrew and Edward, were in Canada to attend the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Alberta, which Queen Elizabeth opened on August 3. Meanwhile, in Ottawa on July 28...*



*Prince Andrew dances with professional figure-skater Lynn Nightingale at a dance given in his honour by Governor-General Jules Léger and Mrs. Léger at Government House. While on a private visit to Ontario as a guest of the Légers, the Prince also visited the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa and Lakefield College, Peterborough, where he studied during 1977. On August 3, he rejoined the royal party in Edmonton for the start of the Games. Prince Philip will officially close the Games on August 13.*

CP photos

## Language regulations relaxed for some head offices in Quebec

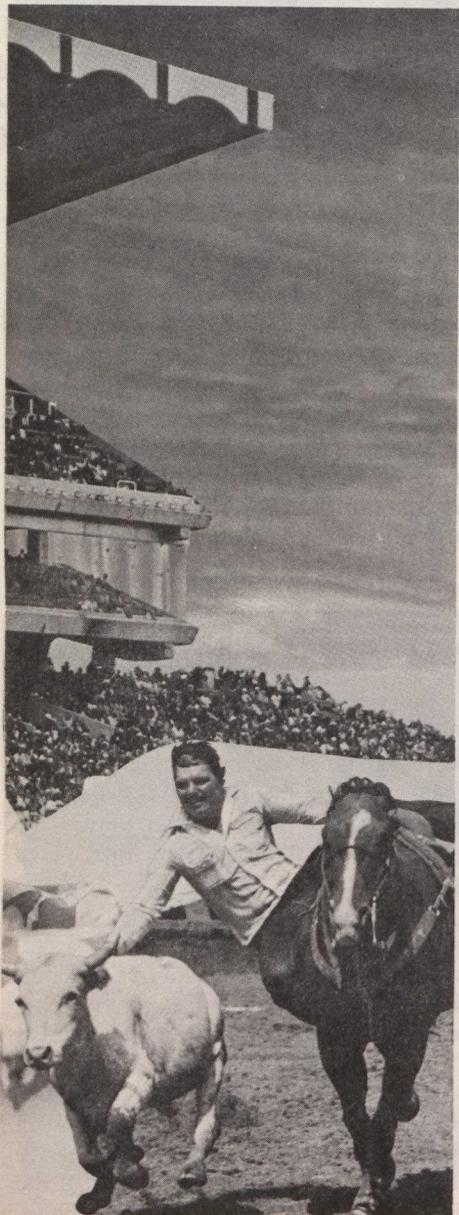
Companies whose head offices are located in Quebec and who do 50 per cent of their business outside the province will be allowed to use English as their working language provided they sign special agreements with the Quebec provincial government.

The regulations form part of the controversial language laws arising from Bill 101, approved last year by the provincial legislature.

The agreements are to include provisions for the use of French by head offices in dealings with Quebec clients, suppliers, shareholders and other members of the Quebec public, as well as with head office staff and staff at all Quebec branches.

Determination of the proportion of business done outside Quebec is to be based on gross income during the three years prior to the request for a special agreement, or for a shorter period for head offices established less than three years.

A company doing more than half its business in Quebec can obtain an agreement if it conducts frequent business outside Quebec, uses complex technology, requires specially-trained staff or fears "the effect that application of a head-office 'francization' program might have on its competitive position". Any firm applying for an agreement "must have completed an analysis of its linguistic situation".



## Calgary whoops it up at Stampede

Each year in the second week of July the city of Calgary, Alberta, rolls back the rug, lets down its hair and kicks up its heels in the annual ten-day insanity called the Calgary Stampede.

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau officially opened this year's Stampede leading the largest parade in Stampede history through city streets astride a chestnut stallion resplendent with a silver-studded saddle valued at more than \$20,000. About 250,000 persons lined the route which wound for more than four kilometres through downtown Calgary. The parade included marching bands from Western Canada and the United States, floats, clowns, antique cars, political personalities, sports figures and the ever-popular representatives from Western Canada's native peoples dressed in full ceremonial garb.

Oil executives, banking personnel and office workers, usually a quiet group of people, don cowboy hats, boots, jeans, vests and string ties to whoop it up and holler in the streets. Business suits and dresses are taboo during the Stampede.

Each morning, many downtown streets are roped off for square dancing. Experienced dancers pull spectators from the crowd until an entire city block is jammed with dancers. Music is provided by a four-piece band as the "caller" chants out the "promenades" and "a la man lefts" while the hilarity and cheers from dancers bumping into each other ripple through the streets.

While one intersection is used for square dancing another features a marching band and yet another is occupied by Indians performing their traditional dances. Everywhere offices are closed as the whole city participates in the fun.

Stampede breakfasts of pancakes, eggs, bacon and sausages are served from sidewalk stands and various organizations sponsor "orange juice breakfasts" noted for their heavily spiked juice and entertainment. By noon each day the city is rolling!

### Rodeo time

While most people are eating beef, the real cowboys are wrestling, roping and riding the pre-dinner plate version for prize money in what is probably the world's largest and most famous rodeo.

The Stampede rodeo is considered to

be the jewel of the North American circuit. It attracts participants from across Canada and the United States, who compete for thousands of dollars in prize money in such events as bronc riding, steer wrestling, calf roping, chuck-wagon races and bull riding — daily chores for the cowboys of Western Canada's history. They pay an entry fee in each contest. Those entering more than one event hope to accumulate enough points to be named "all-round cowboy".

The Stampede Grounds, site of the rodeo, the midway and the grandstand show, are located within one mile of the city's core. The rodeo is held in front of the 17,000-seat grandstand during the afternoons, while evenings are reserved for the stage show and the Stampede's most popular event, the chuck-wagon races.

This year's rodeo demonstrated the danger involved in some events. As a winning chuck-wagon crossed the finish line during a qualifying heat, the driver was thrown from the wagon and lay unconscious on the track, forcing following wagons and riders to swerve to avoid hitting him. Later, after a bull threw his rider, the huge animal leapt a fence and

### Past parade marshalls

Parade marshalls of the Calgary Stampede for the past 12 years were:

1978 — Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau

1977 — Prince Charles

1976 — Steven Ford (son of U.S. President Ford)

1975 — Premier Peter Lougheed of Alberta

1974 — P.H. Dichens (First World War flying ace)

Douglas Bader (Second World War flying ace)

Eugene Cernan (*Apollo 17* Commander)

1973 — RCMP Commissioner W.L. Higgitt

1972 — Mickey Mouse

1971 — Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau

1970 — None recorded

1969 — Ron Northcott Curling Rink (world champions — four members)

1968 — Billy Henry, pioneer of the Canadian West, from High River, Alberta

1967 — Nancy Greene, skiing champion

1966 — Red Adair (international oil-well firefighter).

## News of the arts

almost escaped.

Attendance at this year's Stampede topped one million for the second year running. Officials were pleased with the response despite the rain during the opening days of the Stampede, which kept crowd numbers down.

Beer drinkers found themselves in difficulty throughout the Stampede as two of the province's three beer companies were on strike. Reports indicated thirsty suds lovers were following delivery trucks from the province's one operating brewery into Calgary to ensure they would be among the lucky few to have beer available during the celebrations.

This year's Stampede theme was a salute to the Commonwealth in connection with the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton from August 3 to 12. Next year the Stampede will salute solar energy. (Tom Donohue).

### Canada proposes porpoise, dolphin protection with whaling pact

All the world's cetaceans — not only whales but all members of that mammalian order including porpoises and dolphins — should be brought under international management, stated Canada at a conference in Copenhagen, July 4 to 7.

Canada's proposal gained the interest of states represented at the meeting, which was described as preparatory to the convening of a diplomatic conference to develop a replacement for the International Whaling Convention that became effective in 1948. Participants at Copenhagen included members of the International Whaling Commission, to which Canada belongs, most non-member countries engaged in whaling operations and other intergovernmental bodies interested in the conservation of whales and other cetaceans.

Canada and other states also want to ensure that any new convention would conform to international practice concerning management by coastal states of living resources within 200 miles of their coasts. To deal with both issues Canada proposed a new structure, modelled on the organization being developed to replace the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF).

Under this new structure an autonomous scientific council would provide advice to a new International Whaling

Commission managing those species now under regulation by the present Commission. These species, for the most part, range beyond 200-mile limits.

The scientific council would also provide advice to coastal states on management, within the areas under their fisheries jurisdiction, of the cetacean species not subject to international management. These species occur primarily within 200-mile limits.

A working group will be convened at which a new draft convention, based on the Canadian proposal, will be discussed. A further preparatory conference will be held at a later date to consider the results of the working group.

### Electronic blood hound

A recent article in *The Globe and Mail* by Robert Sheppard reports that a Toronto firm, SCIEX Inc., has developed an electronic "super-sniffer", known officially as a Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA), that detects tiny organic particles in the air.

The instrument, which eventually will be used in the detection of illness, as well as industrial pollution and drugs or bombs at airports, can sense most pollutants in concentrations as low as one part per billion, and many in smaller amounts. Scientists liken the device's sensitivity to the notion of an astronaut's ability, at a great distance from earth, to distinguish the hairs on people's heads far below. It can pick up the sex hormone of the female moth — which is one part hormone to ten billion billion parts air.

Company vice-president Neil Reid says the super-sniffer has the capability to produce a kind of "fingerprint" of the emissions of particular industries. The Ontario Ministry of Environment has purchased one to monitor the emission of PCBs from the smokestacks of a cement company in Mississauga and will report the findings at Environment Assessment Board hearings this autumn.

Although the device analyzes only organic compounds at present, it will become involved in the study of heavy metals in the near future. Scientists are also investigating its potential as a breath analyzer capable of helping doctors reach medical prognoses, and are hoping to use it in analysis of sea water in their search for offshore oil.

### Oil prices increased

The third of four scheduled domestic crude oil price increases went into effect July 1 bringing the price of an average barrel of Canadian crude oil at the well-head to \$12.75 from \$11.75. A barrel of imported crude oil of the same quality landed at Montreal costs about \$16. The higher crude oil costs will not be passed on to the consumer until August 30.

"The July 1 increase marks a further step towards international price levels for oil, which is an essential element of Government policy in reaching energy self-reliance," announced Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie in late June.

"This will result in higher prices of petroleum products to the consumer. This is a necessary element of policies designed to stimulate higher-cost oil exploration and production on the one hand, and to dampen consumer demand on the other. The Government is determined to reduce our costly dependence on foreign oil," he said.

The fourth price increase, tentatively scheduled for January 1, 1979, will be reviewed in the light of the average price of crude oil and imported petroleum products in the Chicago area, the price of crude oil in the Persian Gulf, and any extraordinary occurrence affecting world oil supply or price.

Also effective on July 1, 1978 was a levy of 10 cents a barrel charged to all users of domestic or imported crude oil and most imported petroleum products. The money collected from this levy will be used to fulfil the Government's guarantee of world price for the output of synthetic crude oil from the new Syncrude plant which is expected to start operations in the third quarter of 1978. The Government will then reimburse them for the difference between world price and the going domestic crude price.

The Government will also subsidize the differential in the cost of delivering domestic crude oil via pipeline to Toronto and Montreal. The subsidy, which permits the continued equalization of crude oil costs at Toronto and Montreal, will cost about \$16 million annually.

With the increase in cost for domestic crude oil, oil import compensation (OIC) payments will be reduced by a corresponding amount from the present \$3.40-\$3.50 a barrel. The domestic price increase will mean a saving of approximate-

**Prices per Canadian gallon  
in April 1978**

	Heating oil (including all taxes) cents	Gasoline (taxes in brackets) dollars
Paris	92.2	2.53 (1.55)
Stockholm	75.6	1.90 (1.24)
London	81.2	1.63 (.81)
New York	69.1	.86 (.23)
Ottawa	58.3	.89 (.34)

ly \$100 million in OIC payments over the next six months. Since January 1974, consumers who rely on imported crude oil, mostly in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, have received indirect subsidies of about \$4.9 billion.

Since the Federal Government began regulating domestic crude oil prices in April 1974, the wellhead price has moved from \$3.80 a barrel to \$11.75 as of January 1978. During this time the wholesale price of gasoline was permitted to increase 44.2 cents a gallon. However, prices rose on average by only 39.4 cents.

In fact, Canadians have been paying lower prices for their gasoline and heating oil in the past four years than consumers in other western nations. The table above illustrates the comparisons that existed this spring.

**The new working class**

More than half a million students will leave Canada's educational institutions during 1978 and become available to the labour force. The projected total — 605,300 — is down from last year's estimated 615,300. By 1986 the number of school-leavers should drop to 508,000.

Despite the decline, the number of students seeking work will remain high in the near future. This, combined with larger numbers of working women, will result in continuing rapid growth of the Canadian labour force, which over the past decade has had the highest growth rate of major western industrialized countries.

A rough exploratory calculation suggests that continuing expansion of the work force could require 250,000 to 285,000 jobs a year to keep unemployment to 8 per cent until 1980. After that — with smaller numbers entering the labour force — unemployment could be

reduced to 6 per cent by 1981 with the creation of 230,000 to 270,000 jobs a year. To reduce the rate of 6.5 per cent by 1980 would perhaps require 335,000 to 370,000 jobs a year. The Canadian economy has generated an average of 260,000 jobs annually since 1970, ranging from an average 360,000 a year during the strong expansionary period of 1972-74 to 190,000 a year since 1975.

**Well schooled labour force**

Recent school-leavers have more education than their predecessors. In 1966, 19 per cent had at least some post-secondary education, compared with 37 per cent in 1976 and a projected 42 per cent by 1986. This rise, combined with the retirement of older workers who generally have less education, has rapidly raised the educational attainment of the labour force. The percentage of all workers with completed or partially completed post-secondary education grew from 13 per cent in 1961 to roughly 30 per cent in 1977, and is expected to reach 36 per cent to 40 per cent by 1986.

Unemployment among 15-24-year-olds is high (14.5 per cent in 1977 compared with 5.8 per cent for those 25 and over). However, average 1974-77 spring unemployment rates show that better educated job-seekers are more likely to find work. About 23 per cent of 15-24-year-olds with elementary education were unemployed, compared with 13.5 per cent of those with secondary school education, and 5.4 per cent of degree-holders.

Not all post-secondary graduates fared equally well in the job hunt, however, and many may be underemployed. Ontario surveys show that 1974 and 1975 graduates in disciplines such as business and engineering had lower unemployment rates and higher starting salaries than graduates in the humanities and behavioural and social sciences. The rapidly increasing number of post-secondary graduates in the 1970s has coincided with a decreasing need for elementary-secondary school teachers and a recent slowdown in job creation in the government and other sectors. As a result, job prospects for many graduates have worsened, and are not apt to improve before the mid-1980s.

**Planning careers**

Recent enrolment trends in colleges and universities indicate a swing towards career-related programs such as business, commerce, engineering, health and the

technologies, and away from general arts and science.

In general, little change in total post-secondary enrolment (613,000 in 1977) is expected until the early 1980s, after which the declining number of 18-24-year-olds may cause a drop. University enrolment has already fallen in some provinces (notably Ontario) in 1977. Elementary enrolment, which reached a peak of 3.8 million in 1968, was down to 3.4 million in 1976, and is projected to reach 3.0 million in the early 1980s. Secondary enrolment reached its summit, 1.7 million, in 1976, and is expected to fall 23 per cent to 1.32 million by 1986.

**Canada on Soviet TV**

CBC TV journalist Ab Douglas, host to a one-and-a-quarter-hour Canada Day program on Soviet television, was asked by producer Stanislav Pahkrovsky to "talk about Canadians, not French and English and all that".

"Start off by telling the Soviet people about your national holiday, what people do on that day and what it means," he told Douglas, whose article on the visit appeared in the *Ottawa Journal* of July 13. Douglas says he had no intention of "injecting" the national unity issue into the program.

The screening included a film on the construction of the CN Tower in Toronto; a potpourri of Canadian art; part of a film called *This is Canada*; an animated film produced by the CBC French Network; and a performance by Les Grands Ballets canadiens.

**Toxic chemical ban**

The first step towards a total ban on the import and use of toxic polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) in Canada has been announced by Environment Minister Len Marchand.

Proposed regulations to ban the chemical, which accumulates in food chains, are to take effect October 1.

In the past, PCTs have been used commercially in adhesives for weatherstrip backing, in paints, and as plasticizers for urethanes. They have never been manufactured in Canada, and have not been used in this country since 1976.

The ban will ensure that there will be no further import of PCTs into Canada.

# News of the arts

## Stratford season's special tribute

Stratford Festival's ambitious twenty-sixth season opened on June 5 with a gala "tribute to Shakespeare" by selected performers from Stratford, Ontario, the Canadian Opera Company and the National Ballet. This is the first time the three companies have joined forces in honour of the playwright.

The Company is presenting this year *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, with William Hutt, Alan Scarfe and Domini Blythe; *The Devils*, with Nicholas Pennell, Martha Henry and Richard Monette; *Macbeth*, with Maggie Smith and Douglas Rain; *Uncle Vanya*, with William Hutt, Brian Bedford and Martha Henry; *The Winter's Tale*, with Brian Bedford and Martha Henry; *Candide*, with Edward Evanko and Caralyn Tomlin; *Julius Caesar*, starring Eric Donkin and Nicholas Pennell, and *Titus Andronicus*, with William Hutt in the title role. Artistic director Robin Smith has also arranged for the presentation of *As You Like It*, with Maggie Smith and Brian Bedford; *Judgement*, offering a powerful solo performance by Richard Monette; *Heloise and Abelard*, with four actors alternating performances as the two lovers; *Ned and Jack*, an original Canadian play commissioned by the Festival, starring Alan Scarfe and Jack Wetherall; *Private Lives*, with Maggie Smith and Brian Bedford; *Medea*, with Patricia Idlette in the title role, and *Four Plays by Samuel Beckett*,

with Karen Austin and Mary Savidge. The season ends mid-October.

### Auspicious beginning

The Festival, founded in 1953, had as its first artistic director Sir Tyrone Guthrie. From its early years when performances were held in a tent, the organization has grown to international stature, arranging for its actors tours which have included Copenhagen, Warsaw, Moscow, Leningrad, Edinburgh, New York, and, last year, four major cities in Australia. Originally dedicated to the works of Shakespeare, the theatre now entertains theatre-goers from May until October with classical, popular and experimental theatre and music. There are three theatres in use most days and evenings. The Festival Theatre, with a seating capacity of 2,264, was built in 1957 on the banks of the River Avon. It features a modern adaptation of the Elizabethan stage, using a fixed balcony above a portico with pillars on each side, several trap doors, seven levels and nine main entrances.

The Avon Theatre, a former movie house in downtown Stratford, was acquired by the Festival in 1963. Smaller than the Festival Theatre, it has a seating capacity of 1,102. Works other than those by Shakespeare are featured here. The workshop, started in 1971, stages mainly experimental theatre. With three theatres mainly in constant use, the Festival manages to present ten to 15 productions each season.



The magnificent Festival Theatre won for its architect, Robert Fairfield, the Massey Gold Medal for Architecture in 1958.



Maggie Smith as Rosalind in the 1978 production of *As You Like It*.



Richard Monette as Officer Vukhov in *Judgement*.



William Hutt as Sir John Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Robert Ragsdale

Photos by Robert Ragsdale, Zoë Dominic and Tony Hauser

## News briefs

A study of a proposal for a non-government, non-profit association to promote public appreciation of Canada's national parks has been announced by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada, Hugh Faulkner. The National Park Co-operating Association and its agencies would produce, sell and distribute publications, expand library facilities, extend support to interpretation activities and help provide visitor information. Recommendations on the best arrangement for the establishment of the association will be submitted for study by December 1979.

Canada and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) have agreed to commence negotiations for a settlement of outstanding property questions between Canadian citizens and the Government of the German Democratic Republic. Canadians who have property claims outstanding against the German Democratic Republic are to submit details of their claims to the Department of External Affairs before January 31, 1979. Claimants must have been Canadian citizens at the time of loss. Further details, together with forms and instructions on procedures, are available from: Economic Law Section, Legal Advisory Division, Department of External Affairs, Lester B. Pearson Building, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G2.

Quebec Communications Minister Louis O'Neill said on July 14 that the Quebec government had no plans to create its own news agency. Mr. O'Neill, releasing a report on a study to see whether such an agency was feasible, said that while there was some interest in the idea, there were also reservations, including concern that an agency subsidized by the provincial government would not be independent.

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

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

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

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

Prince Philip, who has been awarded the St. Boniface General Hospital Research Foundation's International Award for 1978, will receive it at a dinner at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on October 15. The principal beneficiary of the honorarium will be The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Canada, founded by Prince Philip, which emphasizes fitness for young people. The award is bestowed annually in recognition of efforts in medical research and leadership in the promotion of health care.

Ontario has begun its \$1.9-million program to provide French-language versions for more than 150 of the province's 700 revised statutes. The program, to cover four or five years, follows a commitment by the Government in the Speech from the Throne last February to establish "a special section...to begin work on translating Ontario's statutes into French". Laws dealing with human or civil rights, benefits, grants or penalties — "the ones that have the most public use and most affect people" — have been selected for translation.

The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to open nine new offices and establish regional headquarters across the country next year to provide improved services to veterans and their dependants. The new offices will be in Corner Brook, Newfoundland; Campbellton, New Brunswick; Sherbrooke and Gatineau, Quebec; Brampton and Peterborough, Ontario; Brandon, Manitoba; Penticton and Prince George, British Columbia.

Higher unemployment benefits help reduce the probability of subsequent unemployment, says a report by Statistics Canada. Relaxation of unemployment insurance rules in 1971 made it possible for those out of work to take longer to look for new long-term jobs and, while this meant longer periods on benefits, it also meant those involved were less likely to be unemployed again.

Quebec Premier René Lévesque has announced that the province's hourly minimum wage of \$3.27 will be increased by 10 cents on October 1 and by a further 10 cents next April 1. The two-step increase covers all people receiving the minimum wage, except those under 18 years of age and employees who receive tips.

Ontario used less electricity than expected last year, says an Ontario Hydro spokesman. Last year's increase was 6 per cent, compared with an average of 12 per

cent for each of the previous ten years. Ottawa was the only city in the province to use less electricity last year than in 1976, perhaps because less is being used in government buildings.

Consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities from May to June, with increases ranging from 0.5 per cent in St. John's, Newfoundland and Thunder Bay, Ontario to 1.0 per cent in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Higher prices for beef cuts and increased home-ownership charges were largely responsible for these advances. Other important contributing factors were higher prices for poultry, fresh fruit, selected clothing items, some imported and North American model cars and train and inter-city bus fares. Lower prices were recorded for fresh vegetables, especially for lettuce and tomatoes, automobile insurance premiums and, in some cities, gasoline.

Wholesale sales in Canada totalled \$5.38 billion in May, an increase of 5.6 per cent from \$5.52 billion a year earlier.

Canadian Pacific Rail has agreed to turn over 334 acres in British Columbia to the St. Mary's Indian band as partial compensation for damage to reserve property caused by the diversion of the St. Mary's River in 1969. CP Rail and the federal Department of Indian Affairs have agreed to share equally the cost of the band's claim to a total of 2,800 acres.

The minimum age for marriage in Ontario has been raised from 14 to 16. Consent to marry from both parents will be required for those under 18, although there are provisions for one parent or separated families. The new legislation abolishes the notion of illegitimate children for all purposes of law, making it unnecessary for teenagers to marry simply to prevent "illegitimacy".

The unsuspecting British Columbian public has been at the mercy of a zany plot to subvert the federal metric-conversion program, throwing otherwise earnest students of the measurement system into fits of rage. Among many widely circulated official-looking, bilingual notices are those advising consumers of metric packages of eggs (ten constitute a dozen), five-pack cases of beer, and a gross of ten metric dozen (100 instead of 144). There is also a rumour of plans to switch to metric time! A B.C. metric office spokesman, Peter Hall expects more capers but, he says, "as long as these hoaxes don't hurt anybody too seriously, a little lighthearted injection isn't that harmful".