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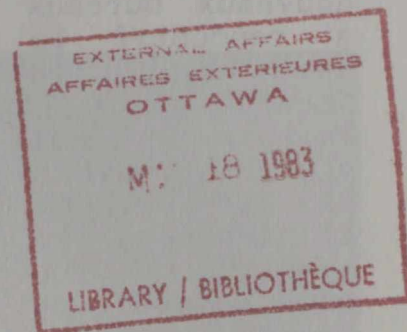


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# Canada

newsletter



N°19

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*Le Vice-président Wilhelm Haferkamp accueille le Premier ministre de l'Ontario, l'Honorable William G. Davis lors de sa récente visite à Bruxelles, le 2 mars dernier.*

## LE CALENDRIER DES EVENEMENTS BILATERAUX CANADA/CE

Au début du mois, l'Honorable William Davis, Premier Ministre de l'Ontario, s'est rendu à Bruxelles pour l'inauguration des nouveaux bureaux de l'Ontario. Lors de cette visite, M. Davis a rencontré le Vice-président aux relations extérieures de la Commission européenne, M. Wilhelm Haferkamp ainsi que le Vice-président aux affaires industrielles et à l'énergie, le Vicomte Etienne Davignon. Le Premier ministre ontarien s'est entretenu, également, avec le Vice-président Christopher Tugendhat et le Commissaire Richard Burke, à un dîner de travail. M. Davis a souligné l'intérêt de son Gouvernement d'attirer et d'encourager les investissements européens en Ontario. Il a profité de ces entretiens pour discuter des perspectives économiques internationales et des conséquences de la baisse du prix du pétrole.

Le 16 de ce mois, un groupe de députés du Parlement canadien sera à Bruxelles pour une série de sessions d'information, organisée par la Mission du Canada et la Commission européenne. Cette visite informelle sera suivie au début de mai par la onzième rencontre annuelle des délégations des Parlements canadien et européen. La rencontre se tiendra à St. John's, capitale de la province atlantique de Terre Neuve. On signale également la visite à Bruxelles, le 14 avril prochain, du Collège de la Défense Nationale. Le Collège, composé d'officiers d'état-major et de hauts fonctionnaires du Gouvernement canadien en stage pour un an, aura une session d'information sur le fonctionnement des institutions de la Communauté européenne.

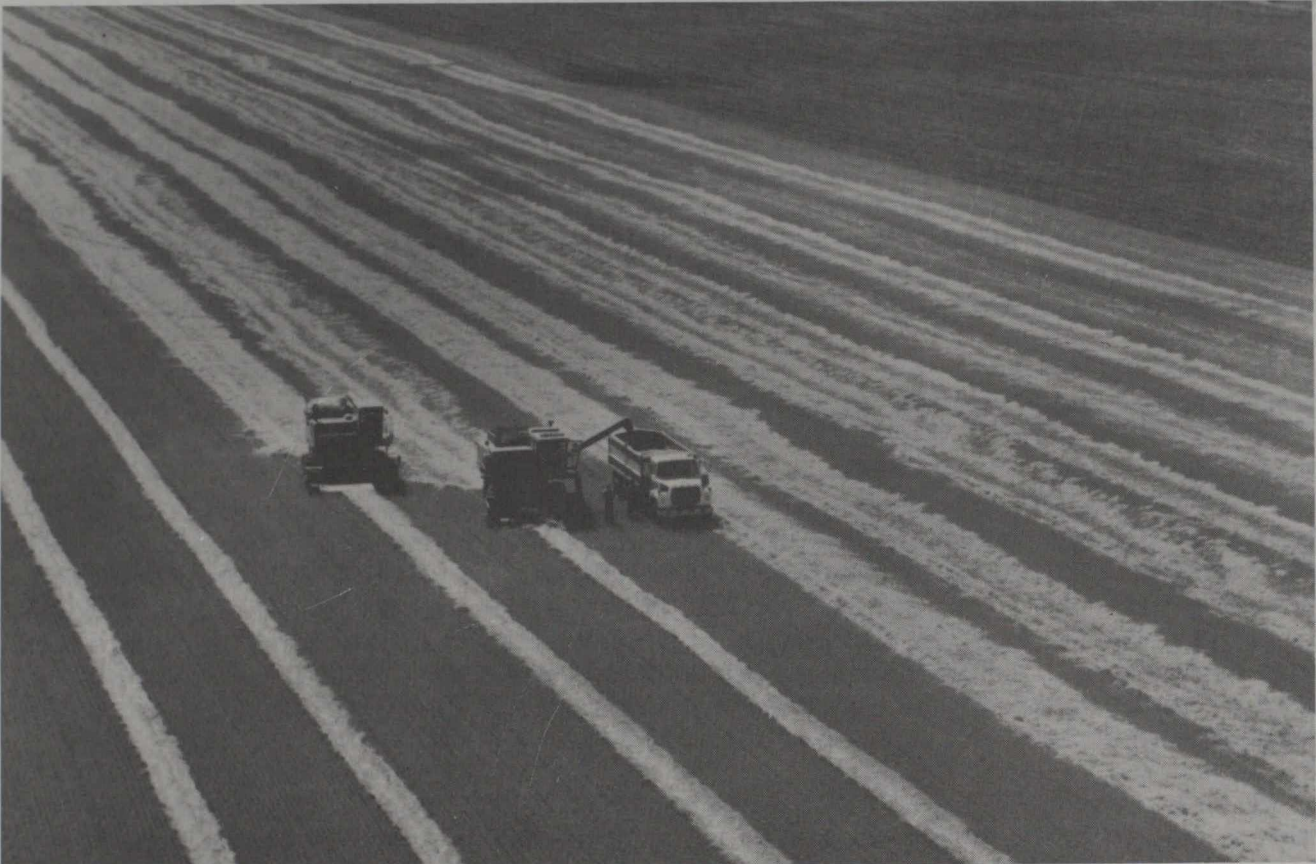
Les prochaines consultations semi-annuelles à haut niveau se dérouleront à Bruxelles, vraisemblablement au début de mai 1983. Il est prévu que le Sous-comité de coopération industrielle et le Sous-comité de coopération générale, établis dans le contexte de l'Accord-cadre, ainsi que certains de leurs groupes de travail, se réuniront à Bruxelles au même moment.

Dans les prochains jours, M. Jacques Gignac, Ambassadeur du Canada auprès des Communautés européennes et M. Leslie Fielding, Directeur général à la DG I, signeront un Accord relatif à une coopération bilatérale dans le domaine des eaux usées. Cette entente portera sur l'échange de rapports de résultats scientifiques, l'organisation conjointe de réunions techniques et de projets de recherche et l'échange de scientifiques et d'ingénieurs se spécialisant dans l'analyse, le traitement et la gestion des eaux usées.

## CANADA IN WORLD GRAIN MARKETS

Although not remarkable for volume of production in absolute terms, Canadian grains exports play an important role in international markets. Less than 14 percent of total annual world production of 1,600 million tonnes of grains normally reaches world markets, most of it being consumed in the countries where it is produced. There are about 25 million hectares of Canadian farmland dedicated to grains and oilseeds production, compared to about 40 million hectares in the EEC member states. However, Canada's relatively low population, about one-tenth of the EEC, means that of the 55 million tonnes of production in 1982 (EEC produced about 190 million tonnes) over half, 28 million tonnes, went to export mar-

kets. In wheat alone, total Canadian production was about 28 million tonnes, compared with the EEC's 60 million tonnes, and Canadian exports will reach about 18 million tonnes or nearly 65 percent of production. Canada traditionally supplies 15 to 20 percent of world wheat trade.



*Harvesting wheat in southern Alberta*

Even with the advanced farming practices in use on the Canadian prairies, soil and climatic conditions predicate yields sometimes as low as one-third the volumes produced on European farms. Most Canadian wheat is planted in the spring and must mature in a growing season of 90 to 100 days. What makes Canadian grains able to compete in world markets, without export subsidies, is a combination of low production costs and quality. Protein content and milling and baking characteristics of hard spring wheat ensure Canada's role as a supplier, even to countries which, like the EEC market, are self-sufficient in cereals. Canadian wheat is often used to blend with domestic varieties in order to meet milling, baking and nutritional requirements.

In recent years, Canadian grains exports have been limited by the capacity of the transport system to move the product thousands of kilometres from prairie farms to ports on the east and west coasts and on "the Lakehead", the marshalling centre for grain being shipped on sea-going vessels which use the St. Lawrence seaway and Great Lakes to penetrate thousands of kilometres to the center of the continent. Modernisation and expansion of the rails and ports system for grain handling is now under way and capacity is expected to increase by 50 percent by the end of the decade. Much of the cost of this major undertaking will be borne by Canadian farmers themselves who are being required to absorb the increased freight rates needed to finance much of the project. The farming community is being invited to respond to the challenge to exploit the increased transport and handling capacity by increasing produc-

tion to respond to anticipated market demand for the 1990's. Planting decisions are a calculated risk for each farmer every new growing season because the system of remuneration operated by the Canadian Wheat Board makes a direct link between producer prices and world market prices. In today's soft world grain markets, a decision to invest in new equipment or land only comes after the most careful calculations.

Major customers for Canadian grain exports now include the European Economic Community (especially the U.K. and Italy), the USSR, China and Japan. As a group, many developing and newly industrialized countries purchase increasing amounts of Canadian grains to keep up with the demands of their rapidly growing populations. Canadian food aid shipments as well as the transfer of grains production know-how are making an important contribution to the food security of many countries of the Third World.

#### A NEW BOOST FOR FUSION RESEARCH

A co-ordinated national programme of fusion research and development is being established by the National Research Council (NRC) of Canada and its partners at provincial level. The long-term objective of the programme, which will have a \$ 20 million budget by 1985, is to enable Canadian companies to manufacture sub-systems and components of fusion power reactors. There will be four principal thrusts to this programme, including specialization in three separate sectors of fusion research.

In the area of magnetic confinement technology, the research efforts will be directed towards a Tokamak reactor (named after a Russian invention in plasma stability) with the unique capability of quasi-steady state operation. The \$ 37.4 million cost of this project is being shared equally by Hydro Quebec and the NRC. The Tokamak is currently being constructed at Varennes, Quebec, and is expected to be operational by 1984.

In the materials and engineering areas, Canadian efforts will be focused on a fusion fuels technology project. This five-year, \$ 20.6 million project will carry out research and development on the extraction and management of tritium, a key component of fusion fuel. The Government of Ontario and the NRC are building a plant to extract tritium from Ontario Hydro's heavy water CANDU reactors. This plant will be the world's largest non-military source of tritium by 1990.

A laser fusion project, on high power, gas laser technology and diagnostic instrumentation, will be the area of specialization in the inertial confinement technology area.

The fourth thrust of the programme involves various international collaborative arrangements. Any one country would find the cost of developing a fusion energy system high, so fusion research has progressed with international cooperation, enabling the sharing of technological breakthroughs. To date, Canada has participated in co-ordinated fusion research through the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Fusion Research Council. As a complement to this multilateral cooperation, Canada and the EC have discussed the possibilities of pursuing bilateral fusion research projects of mutual interest in the context of the Framework Agreement on Commercial and Economic Cooperation. The programme

currently being set up in Canada will further develop scientific and technological expertise, and will permit Canadian industrial participation in the international work on developing commercial fusion power systems.

#### L'ILE DU PRINCE EDOUARD: CHARME ET BEAUTE

L'Ile du Prince Edouard, tout simplement "l'Ile" pour ses habitants, est la plus petite des dix provinces canadiennes, tant par sa superficie que par sa population. Pour beaucoup de Canadiens et de visiteurs de l'étranger, l'île est l'illustration même de la formule " ce qui est petit est joli". Baignée par les eaux du golfe du Saint-Laurent, sa côte est échancrée de baies profondes et de longues anses abritant des plages de sable blanc.

Jacques Cartier débarque sur la pointe nord-ouest de l'île en juillet 1534 et il décrit le paysage qui s'offre à lui comme étant le plus beau qu'il lui ait été donné de voir, avec des arbres à profusion et des plaines magnifiques. L'île reçoit le nom de " Saint-Jean " et accueille des fermiers acadiens de la Nouvelle-Ecosse et des colons de la France. Conquis par les Britanniques en 1758, elle devient l'Ile du Prince Edouard, en l'honneur du quatrième fils du roi.

Cette province a une population de 123.000 habitants. Charlottetown, siège du gouvernement, compte 25.000 personnes et domine l'activité commerciale, politique et culturelle de l'île. Le gouvernement provincial est composé d'un Conseil exécutif de neuf ministres dirigé par l'Honorable James Lee, Premier ministre, et d'une législature de 32 membres. Les insulaires ont raison d'être fiers d'une économie moderne et de gagner leur vie par l'exportation de quelques produits de qualité à travers le monde, tout en préservant leur patrimoine, la beauté et la tranquillité de leur petit coin de pays.

La caractéristique physique la plus connue de l'île est sa riche terre rouge, d'une épaisseur inhabituelle et particulièrement propice à la culture de la pomme de terre. L'importance de cette culture, dont l'origine remonte aux premiers jours de la colonisation, devait s'accroître avec la découverte de nouvelles variétés et l'exportation de semences de pomme de terre ainsi que l'approvisionnement de nouvelles industries alimentaires. Parallèlement, la pêche acquit véritablement de l'importance, surtout la prise de homard qui représente la moitié de la valeur des prises totales de poisson dans la province et il existe plus de deux cents petites conserveries artisanales.

Les insulaires ne sont pas les seuls à apprécier les qualités de "l'Ile". De nombreux Canadiens d'autres provinces, de même que des milliers d'Américains, sont attirés par ces plages de sable blanc, sa campagne verdoyante et vallonnée, sa cuisine régionale et l'abondance du homard. Le Parc national de Cavendish, pourtant le plus petit du Canada, se place au deuxième rang pour sa popularité. Jusqu'à 700.000 touristes ont visité l'île en 1982, ce qui représente environ \$ 55 millions de revenu pour la province. Le Gouvernement provincial vient d'établir un programme d'investissement dans les équipements touristiques, conjointement avec le Ministère fédéral d'Expansion économique régionale. Cet investissement, de concert avec une plus active campagne de publicité, fera de l'industrie touristique la locomotive de l'économie provinciale.

## BEAVERS



*The industrious beaver can dam a small stream in a matter of hours*

No animal would be more "Canadian" than the beaver, yet these thick-set furry rodents once existed widely not only in most of North America but also in Europe. For an animal which often serves as a national symbol, it rates very well. Who, after all, could really dislike a beaver? It is described by scientists as being "shy", "industrious" and "cooperative". A fourth, less positive epithet is "placid". However, in spite of these calming characteristics, recent research on the beaver shows that it is capable of deforestation on a vast scale through its dam-building activities. Scientists working on the Matamek River in the wilderness of eastern Quebec have found that this animal, which spends half its life below the water's surface and rarely sets foot on land, changes the physical, chemical, ecological, topographical and animal population characteristics of the areas it settles. If this is true today, it was even more true in prehistory when the beaver was a much bigger animal. Today's castor canadensis, which is found in North America, is on average, about 1.3 metres long, including its 0.3 metre long tail. But the prehistoric beaver, which roamed the Eocene swamps, castor ohioensis, was double the size.

Scientists believe that, given this size, plus its dam-building activity, the prehistoric beaver may have been responsible for the creation of some of the extensive prairies and wetlands which today dot North America. These topographical features may have occurred because as soon as beavers move into a new stream, they proceed to build a dam, create a pond, dig canals, and then, stock twigs for their winter feeding at the bottom of the pond.

Soon, silt plugs the slightly porous dam and large, shallow fresh water meadows are created behind the dam. The new high water table kills some trees, such as firs, which prefer dry ground. Decades later, when the beavers have moved on, the original stream may find an alternative route due to the general disturbance of the drainage system, leaving the water meadow to dry out to form a prairie.

Today's beaver is not only smaller than his prehistoric ancestor, but also less numerous because of hunting and the spread of human settlements. The beaver is now a protected species and researchers report that the castor canadensis is once again thriving. It is a common sight in the Canadian wilderness and can even be seen sometimes quite close to towns. The European beaver, on the other hand, has been hunted close to extinction and exists today only in certain areas of the Elbe and Rhone valleys.



*The beaver has long been a national symbol in Canada*

#### EN BREF

#### LES PHOQUES: UNE REPONSE A LA DECISION DU CONSEIL EUROPEEN

L'Honorable Allan J. MacEachen, Vice-premier ministre et Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures, a été déçu d'apprendre que le Conseil des Ministres des Communautés européennes envisage l'imposition d'un embargo à l'échelle communautaire sur l'importation de produits de jeunes phoques à capuchon et de jeunes phoques du Groenland à compter du 1er octobre 1983. Monsieur MacEachen a également dit regretter la décision du Conseil de maintenir en vigueur les mesures de restriction du commerce de ces produits. Le Ministre a cependant fait remarquer que l'embargo était subordonné à d'autres requêtes concernant les aspects scientifiques et les conséquences de la chasse aux phoques et que le Conseil avait demandé à la Commission européenne de continuer à chercher, dans le contexte de nouveaux contacts avec le Canada, des solutions qui rendraient inutiles les restrictions à l'importation. "Le Canada est tout-à-fait disposé à collaborer à ces enquêtes, mais il doit exiger qu'elles soient rigoureusement scientifiques et que leurs résultats soient interprétés de façon impartiale. Nous sommes convaincus qu'il sera possible de trouver une solution satisfaisante à ce problème si toutes les parties intéressées sont vraiment prêtes à l'aborder d'une manière rationnelle et coopérative".

#### SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

The first major international conference held in Canada to present a comprehensive overview of satellite communications developments will take place in Ottawa June 15-17, 1983. The Conference will highlight user and business community requirements and appli-

cations, current technology, systems and services. Research and planning sessions will provide insight on future perspectives. An exhibit of earth stations and related products and demonstrations of line transmissions are also planned. Papers on a variety of session topics are now being solicited for presentation and publication in the conference proceedings. Enquiries should be directed to the Conference Chairman, Dr. Kamilio Feher, University of Ottawa, 770 King Edward Avenue, OTTAWA, KIN 9B4.

#### OTTAWA: THE "SILICON VALLEY" OF THE NORTH

A new advanced technology centre was opened recently in Ottawa, as part of a \$ 120 million technology programme launched by the Government of Ontario's Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. The programme provides for six new advanced technology centres in Ontario. Appropriately, the first of these has been opened in Ottawa which is sometimes referred to as "the Silicon Valley" of the north, because there are over 200 high technology companies in the area, including Bell Northern Research and Mitel Corporation. The new \$ 20 million Ottawa Centre specializes in silicon chip technology and is essentially a co-operative agency designed to give small and medium-size business an opportunity to apply expensive and advanced technology in their operations. One of its functions will be the design of circuits of semi-conductors (chips) for the manufacturing of products and processes.

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY

A supermarket in Nova Scotia is planning to use waste cardboard grocery boxes for heating. The provincial government, under its Pilot Projects Programme, is granting \$ 17,000 towards the total \$ 26,000 cost of the scheme. Plans are to install a hot water boiler, heat exchangers and associated hardware so that the annual 90,000 kilograms of corrugated cardboard boxes which the shop otherwise dumps in a local landfill site, is used instead to keep customers warm in winter. The supermarket was previously heated by an oil-fired furnace and a wood-fired unit which consumed 17,252 litres of oil and 190 cubic metres of hard wood a year. Annual energy savings are estimated at \$ 5,600.

