

# Canada Weekly

REF

Volume 9, No. 3

January 21, 1981



Ottawa, Canada

- Major conservation study to determine future of Arctic region, 1
- Earth station licensing simplified, 3
- Marshall McLuhan dies, 3
- New computerized bank helps workers, 3
- Winter fun in Canada, 4
- Company markets solar-powered water pumps, 5
- Canada-Nepal health workers training program, 5
- Inuit television network opens, 5
- New Brunswick wins competition, 6
- Sportfishing scrutinized in book, 6
- Stamp honours founder of hospital, 6
- Top athletes named, 6
- News of the arts — exhibition, prize, music, 7
- News briefs, 8

## Major conservation study to determine future of Arctic region

*The federal government has been carrying out a study of the Lancaster Sound region of the Arctic to compile information about the vast resources of the area and its current and potential uses. Next year, the government will release a final green paper which will provide the basis for determining the future uses of the region. The study is being conducted by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in collaboration with the departments of Environment; Fisheries and Oceans; Energy, Mines and Resources; and Transport; and the government of Northwest Territories. Excerpts from a booklet, entitled All About the Green Paper and outlining more about the study, follow:*

The Lancaster Sound region is of great physical beauty and rich in biological resources. Polar bear, muskoxen, caribou and other wildlife are found in the region. At various times throughout the year its waters are home to vast colonies of migratory birds, and to walrus, seals and whales, all in a setting of complex marine currents, a harsh and stormy climate and heavy ice formation. For centuries, Inuit hunters have fed and clothed their families by harvesting these wildlife resources. Today this tradition continues and it is an important expression of cultural heritage by the people of the area.

Concern for conservation of the region is reflected in the identification of possible national park sites, and in proposals for designation of ecological sites under the International Biological Program (IBP). Their establishment would provide varying degrees of environmental protection to the resources of the region.

The region has also figured prominently in the history of European exploration of this continent and in subsequent patterns of trade, transportation and settlement. Now its role as the eastern entry to the Northwest Passage is likely to become even more important as proposals are being considered for new marine transportation systems and for increased shipping to transport products to and from the North.

### Energy resources

The growing need for new oil and gas supplies and mineral resources has most dramatically increased interest in Lan-

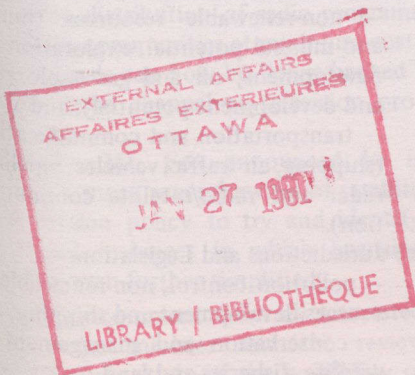
caster Sound in recent years. The lead/zinc mine at Nanisivik, on Strathcona Sound, is already producing ore, and the Arvik Mine being developed on Little Cornwallis Island will produce more. The Arctic Pilot Project, a proposal to ship liquified natural gas (LNG) year-round by icebreaking tanker through Lancaster Sound from a processing facility on Melville Island, was examined by the Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) in July 1980.

In addition, seismic surveys over the past decade have shown that the offshore areas are underlain by geological formations which could contain large petroleum deposits. However only through exploratory drilling can the potential of this very promising area be determined.

The study area is centred on Lancaster Sound at the eastern end of the Northwest Passage, north of Baffin Island. It embraces Cornwallis, Little Cornwallis and Bylot islands, together with parts of Devon, Somerset and Baffin islands. The communities of Resolute, Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet, and the mining community of Nanisivik, are situated within the study area.

### Draft green paper

In order to stimulate full public discussion of a specific issue or policy question, the government sometimes prepares a "green paper" which is a tool for discussion and debate. In the case of the many questions concerning the future of the Lancaster Sound region, the government will first distribute a draft green paper which, together with a series of technical reports



### Seventeen-years ago this week...

Canada and the United States established a joint commission, with representation from New Brunswick, to develop and administer the estate of former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Campobello Island, New Brunswick, as an international park.

Jan 21 / 81

and maps, will be the tools for public discussion. A final green paper will only be prepared after organized and thorough discussion by the residents of the Lancaster Sound region, interested organizations and concerned members of the public.

The draft green paper, technical reports and the maps are important products of a comprehensive regional planning process for Lancaster Sound – one which will eventually provide the foundation for determining the most appropriate uses for the region.

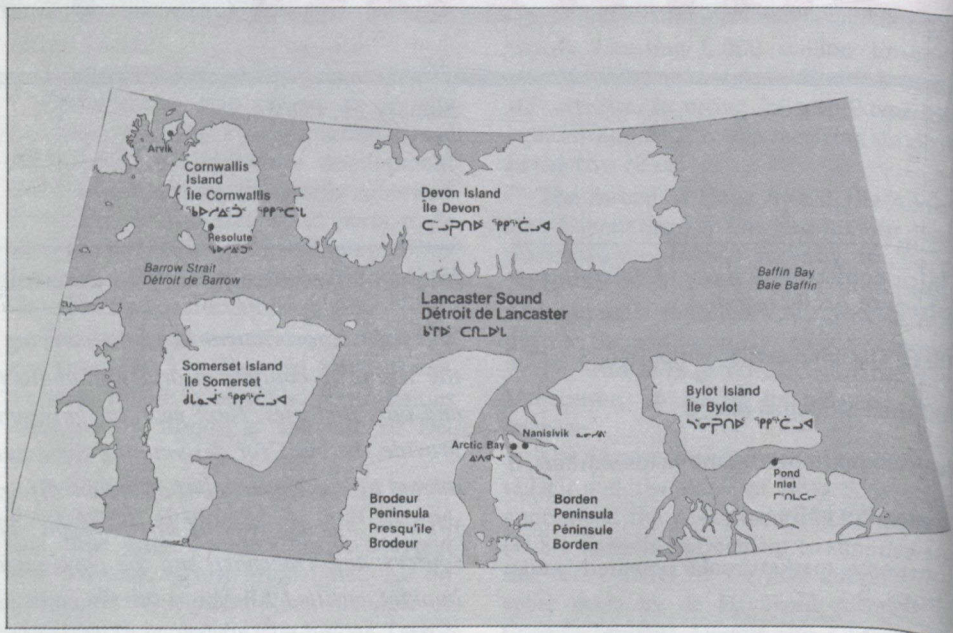
The Lancaster Sound regional study will provide a summary of existing knowledge on the physical and biological environment, the current socio-economic situation and the range of current and potential uses of the study area. It will analyze interrelationships between these uses including compatibilities and conflicts between industrial development, conservation considerations and the aspirations of the Inuit residents. It will identify alternative strategies or options for the management and use of the area.

Because the green paper will be such a valuable document, it is important that everyone, particularly the Inuit residents of the area, have the opportunity to study and comment on the contents before it is published in its final form....

### Lancaster Sound Regional study

The Lancaster Sound Regional Study will develop and use three inter-related products. All of these products will form the basis and support for discussions and public meetings throughout this year.

Throughout the fall and winter of 1979 and the early months of 1980, a working group has been compiling information on the Lancaster Sound area. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs will soon distribute a draft green paper which will examine uses for the area and raise questions about resource management. A representative of the working group visited northern communities during the spring and summer of 1980 to help northerners better understand the planning process. Public meetings will be held in the communities and in southern Canada this winter and spring allowing the public to discuss issues raised in the draft green paper and contribute their views.



• *Draft green paper:* this will be a relatively short (approximately 80 pages) self-contained document fully cross-referenced with technical reports and maps. It will contain the information necessary for the public to understand what the regional study is all about, why it is being done, who is doing it, where the area is and what time frame and methodology are being followed. Copies of it will be distributed as widely as possible to anyone interested in the future of Lancaster Sound.

It will emphasize the planning process, of which the draft green paper is but one initial product. It should serve as a vehicle for stimulating interest in and encouraging the discussion and generation of a variety of options for the use of the Lancaster Sound region.

• *Background reports:* A set of five reports representing the data base for the regional study will be prepared by the working group. They will contain information relevant to consideration of resource-use conflicts and will serve as background to a final report. They will be made available for reference by the public and will be used in conjunction with the maps and green paper.

Those reports will include:

- a) Selected physical characteristics:
  - geology, physiography and geomorphology (description of the nature and structures of the land);
  - climate; and
  - physical oceanography (description of the nature of the waters in the region).

- b) Selected biological characteristics:
  - marine life (fish, seabirds, mammals);
  - terrestrial life (arctic fox, muskoxen, caribou); and
  - vegetation.
- c) Socio-economic characteristics and conservation interests:
  - community overview (a history of human occupation, the present socio-economic situation and community growth, development and perceptions, renewable resource harvesting and tourism); and
  - conservation lands (present and proposed ecological sites, parks, historic and archaeological sites and conservation programs).
- d) Non-renewable resources and transport:
  - non-renewable resources (mining and mineral potential, exploration and development, oil and gas exploration and development potential); and
  - transportation and communications (shipping, air traffic, vehicles, pipelines, radar and radio/satellite communication).
- e) Jurisdictions and Legislation:
  - pollution control, non-renewable resources development and shipping; and
  - conservation and management of wildlife, fisheries and land.
- *Data Atlas:* this contains over 80 maps, at a scale of 1:2,000,000, which depict much of the information contained in the technical reports together with projections of future activities in the region over the next 20 years. It will be made available for reference by the public.

## Earth station licensing simplified

Communications Minister Francis Fox has announced changes to the federal government's policies and procedures that will simplify licensing earth stations and make satellite-delivered programming more readily available to Canadians.

First, licensing of satellite television receive-only earth terminals (TVROs) will be through a new, simplified application procedure. It will now also be possible to obtain a licence for a TVRO within 90 days from the date of application. Up until now, the Department of Communications has carried out an extensive and time-consuming check of each application to ensure that the proposed station would be protected from radio interference. This procedure, which typically can take up to 18 months, is being dispensed with, unless the applicant specifically requests such protection.

Second, TVRO licence applications are now being accepted from provincial educational agencies and authorities. They will be permitted to own and operate terminals to receive Canadian-originated educational TV (ETV) and other signals from Canadian satellites. (A policy in effect since February 1979 had until now restricted such licences to broadcasters, common carriers and cable television operators.)

Third, the minister said that licensed TVRO earth terminals would be permitted to receive radio program signals transmitted over the same satellite channel as the TV signal. This change will facilitate the wider distribution of radio programs to remote communities at minimum cost. Radio signals can now be "piggybacked" on the same channel as television programming.

Finally, Mr. Fox announced he is opening a more general review of satellite earth station policy to try and identify ways and instances in which licensing might be even further simplified.

Inviting comment from all interested parties, the minister said the review would include study of the possibility of extending TVRO licensing to certain categories of applicants not now eligible. It would also examine extension of receive-only licensing in such specialized service areas as scientific, navigational and weather satellite systems and distribution of radio program or news service signals via Canadian satellites.

## Marshall McLuhan dies

Marshall McLuhan, who rose to international fame as one of the leading social theorists of the electronic age, died of a stroke in Toronto, December 31.

The former University of Toronto English professor suffered a stroke in September 1979, from which he never fully recovered.

Mr. McLuhan became an international celebrity in the 1960s. His books — including *The Mechanical Bride*, *The Gutenberg Galaxy*, *Understanding Media* and *The Medium is the Message* — explored the radical changes he saw in society with the rise of television, radio and other electronic media.

He coined the phrase "the medium is the message" to explain his theory that the form of communication is more important than the content.

He also said instant communication was creating a "global village" in which power would be decentralized and the cognitive process reshaped.

Mr. McLuhan was born in Edmonton on July 21, 1911, but was raised in Winnipeg. He received his MA from the University of Manitoba in 1934.

He received his PhD from Cambridge University in England and in 1946 joined the English department of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. Mr. McLuhan became a full professor there in 1952.

The University of Toronto established the Centre for Culture and Technology



Marshall McLuhan

in 1963, and Mr. McLuhan became its director for the next 17 years.

He received the Governor General's award for critical writing in 1962 for *The Gutenberg Galaxy* and was made a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1970.

Although the university retained Mr. McLuhan past the normal retirement age of 65 because of his accomplishments, he was finally forced to retire last year at 68 after suffering the stroke. The centre was replaced by the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology.

## New computerized bank helps workers find jobs

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced the opening of a national job bank — a nationwide telephone/computer system that rapidly matches workers and jobs.

The bank stores data on jobs that cannot be filled locally. Through it qualified workers willing to relocate can be put in immediate touch with employers who list such jobs with a Canada Employment Centre.

"The job bank is one of a number of initiatives we are taking to streamline our employment service," says Mr. Axworthy. "It is aimed directly at relieving the supply-demand imbalances that are causing critical skill shortages, notably in the high-skill trades."

The national job bank combines the speed and efficiency of computerization with the coverage of more than 400 Canada Employment Centres (CECs).

### Telephone connection

The bank uses direct telephone lines to connect CECs with a computer control centre based in Hull, Quebec, near Ottawa. CEC staff phone in information on jobs that cannot be filled locally, and/or may request job searches on behalf of worker clients. Control centre operators receive and relay data on jobs and conduct job searches. A job entry or search can be done in a matter of minutes — in fact, while a client waits.

Since the bank began operating on a trial basis in March, its inventory has reached a level where some 5,000 jobs are available at any given time. Between 400 and 600 searches a day are being carried out, and some 80 per cent of these result in potentially suitable jobs being identified for workers.

## Winter fun in Canada

Winter in Canada is a season of festivals and carnivals with a variety of activities taking place all across the country.

February is the month of carnivals. Rooted in the medieval European customs preceding Lent (the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter, observed by the Roman Catholic, Eastern and some Protestant churches), the Canadian carnivals take advantage of the winter season.

The biggest of these celebrations, and one that is world-famous, is the Quebec Carnaval, February 5-15. The spirit of the carnival is signified by a walking, talking snowman wearing a bright red toque, Bonhomme Carnaval. "Put care aside for the period of my reign and share the joy of all my subjects," he exhorts his followers.

Bonhomme's home for this ten-day festival is his Ice Palace. Made of water-welded ice blocks on a metal frame, it includes walls, floors, stairways, battlements, toboggan slides and even a "jail".

Each year Quebec artisans create ingenious statues of ice and snow along Carnaval Street, in the old section of the city. Their subject matter varies from historical or political figures to contemporary themes.

Games and contests are an integral part of all carnivals.

In Quebec, the canoe race across the St. Lawrence River is a highlight. The 1.6 kilometre wide river (one mile) at this time of year is clogged with ice chunks. Battling the force of the current and the tide, five-man teams race across the river. Paddling furiously they scramble out of the canoes when they hit an ice chunk and drag the heavy steel-braced vehicles until they hit water again.

At the Winter Carnival (February 6-15) in Vernon, British Columbia, the festival includes games like snow golf, snow baseball and an obstacle race.

### Snow golf

Snow golf, a British Columbia "first", has its origins in the recent past, when some British Columbia golf enthusiasts became tired of waiting for summer and tried golfing in the snow. The game caught on quickly.

"Golf balls" are coloured tennis balls, and "golf clubs" range from brooms to logs. The "holes" are dug out of the snow

and watered until they become ice. The "green" is a mixture of packed snow and water. Par? About 150, says Fernand Desroches, organizer of this year's carnival.

Baseball on ice is another summer-made-winter sport. It is played like any ordinary slow-pitch baseball game, but when you're wearing skates it's a little difficult to stay upright.

In the obstacle race, participants ski uphill instead of down. A few large tires and a couple of water ponds to get the skis nice and sticky ensure nobody sets any speed records.

Serious skiing is done in the freestyle events, which attract participants from Canada, the United States and Europe. There are also snowmobile races, cross-country races, broomball tournaments, an invitation pee-pee hockey tournament, a curling bonspiel and a pet show.

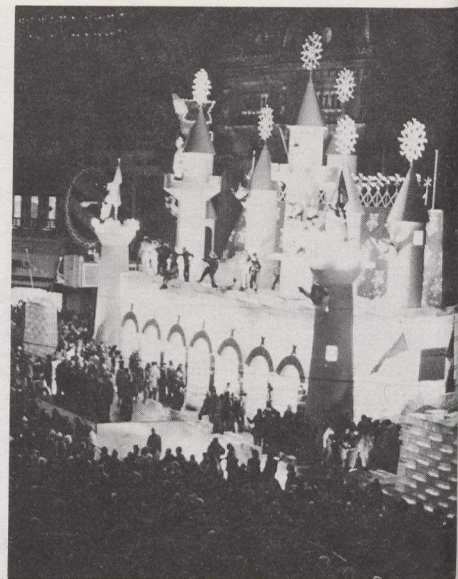
A costume dance is held every night of the ten-day event. Each one has a different theme, from medieval to western.

"Schmooshing", another silly sport originating in British Columbia, is one of the features of the Kimberley Winterfest (February 11-15). It's a form of skiing. The "skis" are two boards, six to eight feet long, held on by leather straps. In a partnership performance — two people get on the skis, one in front and one behind, and "schmoosh" down to the finish line. In addition, there are tug-of-war contests, kite flying, cross-country skiing and snowshoe races.

Kimberley, known as the "Bavarian City of the Rockies", has a distinctive German air. Up at the "platzl", or town centre, there are hockey games for the



*The canoe race across the St. Lawrence.*



*Quebec Carnaval's ice palace.*

children and beerfests and German music during the evenings.

### Voyageur spirit rekindled

The Festival du Voyageur is held each year in St. Boniface, Manitoba (February 14-22) and revives the spirit of Canada's early hunters, trappers and adventures.

The festival recalls the winter of 1816, when Jean-Baptiste Lagimodière, the first pioneer of the Red River, donned his snowshoes, bade goodbye to his St. Boniface home and set out for a three-month walk to Montreal, Quebec to deliver an important message.

Lagimodière's memory is celebrated with snowshoe races, cross-country ski marathons, fiddling and jigging contests, beard-growing contests, moccasin dances and an annual reincarnation of Lagimodière in the form of an early voyageur dressed in rawhide, toque and striped sash.

One contest taken seriously at the festival is the dog-sled race. Dog sleds have long been an important part of Canada's winter. Before the advent of the snowmobile, they were essential transportation in the northern tundra and Arctic regions.

For the race, Alaskan huskies (a mixture of Siberian husky, Alaskan malamute and hound breeds) pull racing sleds weighing between 25 and 30 pounds that slide over the snow with less resistance than well-waxed skis. Combining lightness and flexibility with sufficient strength to stay together under the strain of 15 lunging dogs, the sled is held together with rawhide or twine which prevents the cold, brittle wood from splitting.

## Company markets solar-powered water pumps

An Ottawa firm specializing in alternative energy systems is moving into the Third World with Canada's first sun-powered water pumps, reports Keri Sweetman in the *Ottawa Citizen*.

Officials of Canadian Energy Development Systems International (CEDSI) say the six-month-old consulting company has begun a drive to sell sun pumps to some of the world's poorest farmers, who cannot afford the fast-rising costs of traditional irrigation systems.

The system, being marketed by CEDSI, was developed by a Canadian engineer now working on solar energy projects in Washington.

It is deceptively simple: a few dozen photovoltaic (solar) cells are mounted on a sturdy aluminum frame and connected by cable to a submersible pump.

When the sun is shining, a unit with seven panels of cells produces up to 250 watts of power, easily pumping water from depths of up to 15 feet.

By using the pump to draw water from nearby streams or from shallow wells, a farmer can double his crop, explains



James McGill demonstrates sun-powered water pump.

James McGill, CEDSI's chief economist.

CEDSI's staff of six economists and engineers is also looking for markets for a similar pump which will be capable of drawing drinking water from depths of more than 100 feet. It should be ready by

next spring.

Solar power is not the company's only interest. It also sells consulting services on wind power and small-scale hydroelectric operations which can provide enough energy for small villages.

## Canada-Nepal health workers training program

The Canadian government has announced that it will help Nepal train auxiliary health workers so that basic care can be made available to people living in the isolated eastern region of the mountainous Asian country.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will grant \$2.99 million to help create a 160-student training centre at Dhankuta and a network of six rural health posts throughout the Eastern Development Region of Nepal. The project is modelled on a CIDA-assisted school which began operating in 1979 and is now successfully training auxiliary health workers, or paramedics, in the town of Surkhet, in Nepal's Far Western Development Region. As at Surkhet, the Dhankuta project will include post-secondary training in India for health-care teachers, a health survey of the district, and further development of the curriculum for training community medical auxiliaries.

To make its limited funds more effective, the Nepal government, assisted by

the Institute of Medicine of Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, is trying to create a system to deliver primary and preventive care to people in the rugged countryside. The goal is to provide a training centre and a few rural health posts in each of Nepal's four development regions. As a result of the successful initiative at Surkhet, CIDA will now use the experience gained there to carry out this similar project in an equally remote region.

Canadian bilateral aid to Nepal has increased since 1977, and disbursements totalled \$6.74 million last year. Besides providing potash and *Twin Otter* aircraft, Canada is sponsoring projects to improve road maintenance and to help Nepal make better use of its land and water resources. In addition, a dozen Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) carried out 25 projects last year with a total value of \$2.7 million, mainly in the fields of health and education, assisted by matching grants of about \$766,000 from CIDA.

## Inuit television network opens

Canada has a fledgling new television network on which viewers can talk back — in Inuktitut.

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munro recently telephoned congratulations from Ottawa to the Inukshuk Project's official opening broadcast from Frobisher Bay, Baffin Island.

Inukshuk is the name of a pilot project beaming programs in the Inuit language (Inuktitut) to eastern Arctic communities via the *Anik B* satellite. The Inuit-run network has been broadcasting 16-and-a-half hours a week since September from Frobisher Bay to Baker Lake, Eskimo Point, Pond Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Igloolik. Until now most of the programs have been live inter-community meetings and group discussions. The two-way audio system enables people to "talk back" to their TV sets and so talk to people in other communities on the network.

Satellite time and equipment for the program is being provided by the Department of Communications.

## New Brunswick wins competition

An all out effort by the citizens of St. Stephen, New Brunswick has led to a first place finish in an international competition to cut municipal electrical consumption, reports Jeff Passmore in December's *Canadian Renewable Energy News*.

The contest, October 22-25, involved six communities in New England and five in eastern Canada. The 5,400 residents of St. Stephen reduced electrical use by 17.5 per cent during the monitoring period and Monterey, Massachusetts, the second place finisher, recorded a 15.6 per cent cut.

Residents postponed baking, turned off water heaters, shared pot luck suppers, burned candles and fired up wood stoves.

"All of a sudden everybody in St. Stephen had something in common. People asked each other how much insulation they had and how much they were going to put in and local stores had sales on energy conservation products," said Maria Kulcher of the St. Stephen Chamber of Commerce.

Kulcher says the contest will result in long term energy saving for St. Stephen. "People learned a lot about what they could do as a result. For many, it was their first introduction to conservation. Now they can turn off their water heaters for 24 hours at a time and many discovered automatic control thermostats."

## Stamp honours founder of hospital

A postage stamp honouring Dr. Emmanuel-Persillier Lachapelle, co-founder of Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal, was issued recently by Canada Post.

"Dr. Lachapelle is being recognized for his contribution to medical education and to public health service in the province of Quebec," said Postmaster-General André Ouellet.

Emmanuel-Persillier Lachapelle, who was born at Sault-aux-Récollets on December 23, 1845, became a prominent physician in Quebec. Dr. Lachapelle was a shrewd administrator and devoted community leader and in 1887, the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Society elected him president.

Dr. Lachapelle was the driving force behind the founding of Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal in 1880. For many years he was administrator of the hospital, which offered teaching facilities to medical students and served the residents of Montreal's rapidly growing east end. Today it is North America's largest francophone medical centre.

Dr. Lachapelle died in Rochester, Minnesota, in 1918. The stamp featuring his portrait was printed in a rich duotone, and was designed by Jean Morin Designers of Montreal.

## Sportfishing scrutinized in book

An examination at sportfishing in Canada by Canadian conservationist and author Roderick Haig-Brown is now available under the title *Bright Waters, Bright Fish*.

The manuscript for the book, sub-titled *An Examination of Angling in Canada*, was completed by Roderick Haig-Brown just before his death in October 1976.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans commissioned Haig-Brown to write the book to convey both to the general public and anglers a fuller understanding of the philosophy and contribution of recreational fisheries to the enjoyment of life and to promote the wise use of fisheries and the environment in Canada.

In preparing the text, Haig-Brown was supported by provincial and territorial sport fishing agencies, assuring that his study achieved a comprehensive and authoritative coverage of the vast sweep of Canada's sport fisheries from coast to coast.

With experience of the great outdoors gained in his early life as a logger, fisherman and trapper in British Columbia, Haig-Brown wrote more than 20 books, beginning with *Silver* in 1931, which have delighted nature lovers throughout the world.

Haig-Brown served as a magistrate in British Columbia for more than 30 years

and was an active member of many regional, national and international organizations related to conservation, including the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission.

*Bright Waters, Bright Fish* is a co-publishing venture of the federal government with Douglas and McIntyre Limited of Vancouver, in association with the British Columbia Wildlife Federation. The book has more than 50 colour illustrations, as well as a number of original watercolours and drawings by artist Robert Fish.

A French-language version of the book under the title *De poissons vifs sur champ d'écume* is also available.

## Top athletes named

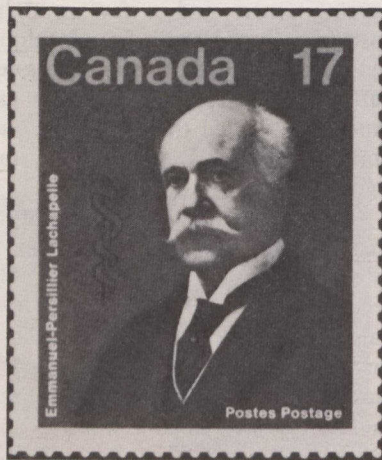
Hockey player Wayne Gretzky, golfer Sandra Post and the Montreal Expos baseball team have been named Canada's top athletes for 1980 by *The Canadian Press*.

In the annual year-end poll conducted *The Canadian Press*, sportswriters and broadcasters made Gretzky the overwhelming choice for male athlete of 1980. Gretzky will receive the Lionel Conacher Award, which honours Canada's male athlete for the first half century.

In his first season in the National Hockey League, Gretzky, who plays for the Edmonton Oilers, won the most valuable player award and the most gentlemanly player award. He also tied for the scoring lead and was not named rookie of the year on a technicality — he had played as a professional in the World Hockey Association. All this was achieved before he reached his twentieth birthday.

*The Canadian Press* named golfer Sandra Post Canada's woman athlete for 1980. The win was the second in a row for Post, who also won easily in 1979 when she earned almost \$180,000. This year, despite cutting back on her schedule and a drop in earnings to \$105,350, she still remained the favourite of the voters in the poll. Post, 32, will receive the Bobbie Rosenfeld Award, established in honour of Canada's female athlete of the first half century.

For the second year in a row the Montreal Expos, who finished second in the National League were named Canada's team of the year. They received more than half of the first place votes of the sportswriters and broadcasters polled



# News of the arts

## Newfoundland hooked and poked mats displayed



A partial view of *The Steve Hamilton mat*, maker unknown (c. 1940).

An exhibition of 60 hooked and poked mats from Newfoundland and Labrador, entitled *The Fabric of Their Lives*, was on view recently at the Canada House Gallery in London, England.

The exhibition comprised a selection of mats produced in this region of Canada during the last 70 years. Recent works in the exhibition demonstrated that this craft form continues to flourish and designs ranged from bold, realistic images to vividly multi-coloured abstract or geometric patterns. A lively use of colour is a particular feature of mats from Newfoundland and Labrador.

Colleen Lynch, who organized the exhibition for the Art Gallery of Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland, was in London for the opening and lectured on her researches into the subject of hooked and poked mats in Canada.

Hooked and poked mats are described in a catalogue by Ms. Lynch as follows: "In Newfoundland and Labrador today women make two kinds of mats, the well-known hooked mat and the almost unknown shaggy style of mat usually called a poked mat.... Although used as hearth rugs in Britain, in Newfoundland poked mats were used primarily to wipe off muddied and snowy boots before entering the house. They were constantly wet, therefore rotted easily, and were fre-

quently disposed of after a season or two of use.... Poked mat designs are usually quite simple, possibly as much a reflection upon the short life span of the mat as it is a limitation imposed by the technique...."



A partial view of mat by Flo Baikie, *North West River, Labrador* (c. 1965).

## Canada-Switzerland literary prize

Swiss writer Alice Rivaz was chosen recently as the first winner of the new Canada-Switzerland Literary Prize, sponsored jointly by the Canada Council and the Swiss Fondation Pro Helvetia.

The prize, worth \$2,500, has been awarded for Madame Rivaz's recent novel, *Jette ton pain*.

Born in 1901 in Rovray, Switzerland, Alice Rivaz has had a long and productive literary career. Her first novel, *Nuages dans la main*, appeared in 1940. Since then, she has published several novels, collections of short stories, and a brief poetic work based on her life, (*Comptez vos jours*, 1966). In 1975 she won the City of Geneva's Grand Prize for literature for her complete works.

### Canadian jury

The Canadian jury which chose Madame Rivaz as this year's prize winner included: Gilles Archambault, novelist and head of cultural programming for Radio-Canada; Monique Bosco, novelist and professor of literature at the Université de Montréal; Henri-Dominique Paratte, professor of literature at Acadia University and editor of the journal *Etudes romandes*; Jean-Marie Poupart, novelist and professor of literature at the CEGEP St-Jean in Montreal; and Naïm Kattan, who presided at the jury as representative of the Canada Council.

The Canada-Switzerland Literary Prize, established last year, is intended to honour Swiss and Canadian writers for works published in French during the preceding eight years. Poetry, fiction, drama and non-fiction are eligible. Next year the prize will be presented to a Canadian writer.

### Musical heritage recorded

The Canadian Music Heritage Collection, based in Toronto, is embarking on a project designed to record and preserve Canadian folk music.

Budget for the first year of operation is \$440,000.

Spokeswoman Sylvia Tyson said the organization will produce up to 20 high-quality recordings each year until the objectives of the series have been met. They will distribute them to libraries, schools and individuals.

## News briefs

The Department of External Affairs has appointed James J. McCardle to serve as Canada's Special Negotiator (Nuclear Safeguards). Mr. McCardle will negotiate non-proliferation/safeguards agreements with governments of those countries with which the Canadian government wishes to enter into nuclear co-operation. Mr. McCardle's first task in this regard will be to negotiate a long-term arrangement with Euratom covering the reprocessing of nuclear material subject to the Canada/Euratom nuclear co-operation agreement.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council has awarded 200 new strategic grants totalling \$8.3 million. Strategic grants support university research aimed at contributing to the understanding or solution of problems in the fields of communications, energy, environmental toxicology, food/agriculture and oceans. In addition to these designated areas, a limited number of applications were accepted in other areas considered to be of national concern by Canadian universities.

Alberta's Heritage Savings Trust Fund grew to \$7.4 billion by September 30, the fund's second-quarter report for 1980-81 shows. This was nearly \$1 billion more than total assets on March 31, 1980. Money from the fund went into loans to other provinces and investments in capital projects and Crown corporations within Alberta.

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has announced that projects involving 183 senior citizens groups across Canada will receive federal contributions totalling \$1,136,088. A total of 28,897 participants are directly involved. The funds are made available through the department's New Horizons program.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has approved an additional 800

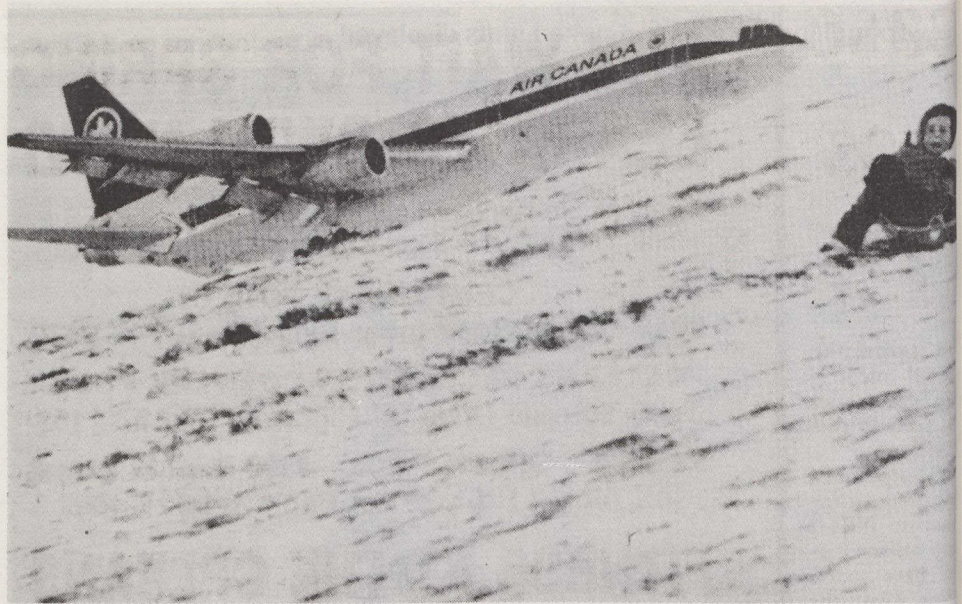
*Canada Weekly* is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to the editor.

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

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

*Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.*



*What might seem to be a jet climbing a toboggan hill to join the youngster on his way down was just a momentary illusion; the plane was coming in to land behind the hill.*

housing units for the greater Vancouver area to help meet a critical housing shortage. A recent survey of vacancy rates in rental units in major Canadian cities showed that Vancouver, at .4 per cent, had one of the lowest rates in the country.

Four new regional passport offices will be opened in Fredericton, London, Windsor and Victoria. The extension of personalized passport service to the four cities brings to 16 the number of regional passport offices across the country. It is estimated that the four new offices will provide over-the-counter service to approximately 22,000 Canadian travellers during the first year of operation.

Increases in the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and Spouse's Allowance, come into effect in January. The basic Old Age Security pension was increased to \$202.14 monthly from the former \$196.83. The maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement for an individual or a married person whose spouse is receiving neither a pension nor a Spouse's Allowance, was increased to \$202.94 from its former \$197.60. Added to the basic pension, this will give a person receiving both the OAS and the maximum GIS a monthly total of \$405.08.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced the conclusion of a \$6.1 million (U.S.) financing agreement to support the sale of a DHC-5D Buffalo aircraft and spare parts by the de Havilland Aircraft of Canada, Limited, Downsview, Ontario, to Fisco-Fuerza Aerea de Chile

(The Chilean air force). The sale will generate some 209 man-years of employment in Canada.

Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development John Munro has officially named Doug Bell, Commissioner of the Yukon Territory. He has been the Administrator and Acting Commissioner since the resignation of Ione Christensen, October 9, 1979. As Commissioner, he will be the Minister's senior adviser on Yukon affairs and continue to act as the representative of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Secretary of State Francis Fox has announced payments of \$162,500 to the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and \$20,000 to the Association for Canadian Studies. The funds represent the first instalment of the final year of a three-year pilot project announced in 1978 to promote Canadian studies. This pilot project also has provided support to the activities of the Canada Studies Foundation.

The federal government has decided to offer roughly \$50 million in export subsidies to help Canadian companies bid on contracts abroad. Ed Lumley, Minister of State for Trade says that the federal government will offer the funds to Canadian firms bidding on foreign capital projects to reduce financing terms. The government money would be used in combination with conventional export financing to produce low interest rates, an export financing device known as "credit mixte".