

# Canada Weekly

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**The Expo Centre sets gears in motion for world exposition, 1**

**Office for liaison with United States banks, 4**

**Food products from Canada well represented at Foodex 85 trade fair in Japan, 4**

**Program to rescue boat people, 5**

**Teleguide service in Japan, 5**

**Additional Canadian troops join NATO forces in Europe, 5**

**Various sectors represented at economic conference, 5**

**Authentic hand-carved Haida canoe to float at Expo, 6**

**Software authorization system stops stealing, 6**

**Most distant star discovered, 6**

**A leading 'chip' maker, 6**

**News of the arts — exhibition, tour, 7**

**Expo Info 24 hours a day, 8**

**News briefs, 8**

**No footprints in the air, 8**

## The Expo Centre sets gears in motion for world exposition

On May 2, 1985 the Expo Centre will open as the major prelude to the 1986 World Exposition, EXPO 86, to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia from May 2 to October 13, 1986.

EXPO 86 will be Canada's second world exposition. Montreal's EXPO 67 is still considered internationally by many as one of the most successful expositions ever held. The 1986 World Exposition coincides with the one-hundredth anniversary of the city of Vancouver and the arrival of the first transcontinental train on the west coast. It will be a year-long celebration featuring the very best of world expositions.

The Expo Centre, Vancouver's newest landmark, will become a major tourist attraction when it opens on May 2 and it will be one of the main attractions of the 1986 World Exposition. It is situated on the main Expo site, a 70-hectare section along 4.2 kilometres of shoreline on the north and east shores of False Creek.

Within the Expo Centre's gleaming 17-storey geodesic dome are theatres, exhibits, restaurants and shops. The centre is a first in exposition history and will be part of the EXPO 86 marketing campaign.

### A voyage in largest theatre

In Canada's first and the world's largest 500-seat Omnimax Theatre inside the centre, viewers will be able to see the 18-minute Omnimax film, *A Freedom to Move* by an award-winning Canadian crew.

The film is a sensory voyage that transports the viewer from the frozen tundra of the North Pole to the sun-baked flats of

the Mohave Desert, and beyond to the far regions of space.

Inside the 323-seat Futures Theatre, visitors will be able to forecast the future at the first interactive theatre in Canada. By pressing buttons located in the arms of their seats, the audience will vote on possible future scenarios in world transportation and communications.

The third Expo Centre presentation, Design 2000, is a dynamic walk-through exhibit presenting ideas of what may happen in the future.

Over-all preparations for EXPO 86 continue to progress on schedule and observers acknowledge that the 1986 World Exposition is the most advanced at this stage of any world exposition. With full commitment to EXPO 86 by all levels of government, corporate sponsorship to date has also raised \$140 million.

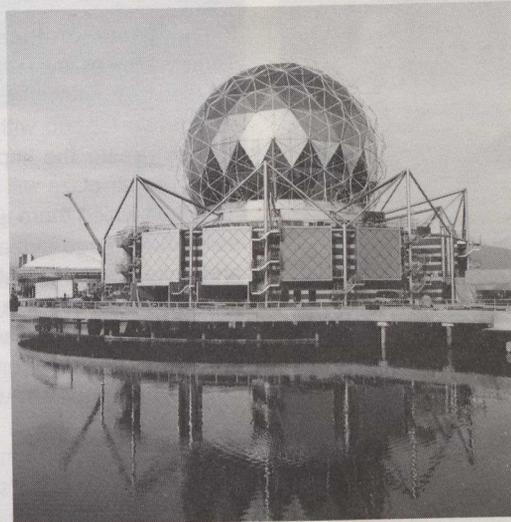
The number of countries signed up for participation is approaching 40 and the number of corporations 16.

With provincial, state and other pavilions, the number of pavilions on the Expo site is expected to total more than 80.

### Canada's pavilion

At the second EXPO 86 site, a huge three-hectare pier reaching three-and-a-half city blocks out onto Burrard Inlet, north of False Creek, construction is progressing well on Canada Place. It will house the Canadian pavilion and exhibits from several corporations.

A main feature of the large structure, designed like a sailing ship under full canvas, is a 500-seat theatre with a three-



*The opening of the Expo Centre is a unique prelude to the 1986 World Exposition in Vancouver.*

**EXPO**  
**86**



External Affairs  
Canada

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Canada

dimensional version of the super-large Imax format. The National Film Board is producing a film that will be shown on a curved screen in the theatre nearly six storeys high.

After EXPO 86, Canada Place will become a permanent trade and convention centre, and a hotel and office complex.

### Reflections on the theme

The theme of EXPO 86 is "World in Motion — World in Touch", chosen to celebrate the world's achievements in transportation and communications to date and to attempt to expand mankind's knowledge for the future. Based on the theme, a number of advanced transportation systems have been developed to help people move on and to and from the two Expo sites.

The False Creek site is connected end-to-end by a 5.5-kilometre monorail system, elevated five metres above the ground and offering its passengers a panoramic view of the exposition, and by an intra-site ferry service stopping every few hundred metres

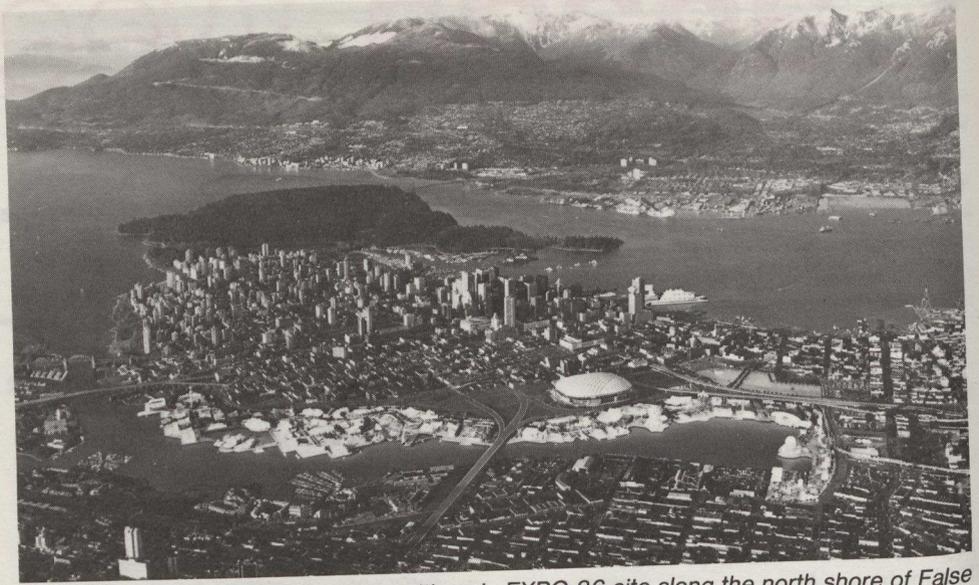


*Expo Ernie and guides invite visitors to pre-view tours at the Expo Display Centre.*

along the shore. Backing this up are two skyride transportation systems, the Air Canada and Canadian Pacific gondolas, serving each end of the site.

Between False Creek and Canada Place, visitors will be able to travel on a new electrically powered light-rail transit system developed in Canada. Or they may choose to travel by water via a speeding hydrofoil or hovercraft as part of the EXPO 86 intersite ferry system.

The transportation and communications theme will also be emphasized by the inauguration of the Vancouver Regional Rapid Transit (VRRT). It will eventually connect downtown Vancouver with all its suburbs.



*Aerial view of downtown Vancouver with main EXPO 86 site along the north shore of False Creek. Canada Place across the peninsula will be connected to the main site by rapid transit.*

On the main site a wide variety of vehicles will be used. These include traditional popular vehicles like jeepneys from the Philippines, Arab dhows from Kuwait and Venetian gondolas, as well as advanced technological products like the Alberta-designed ice fields Terrabus.

### Plazas based on themes

Three theme plazas — marine, air and land — are also being planned. The marine plaza will be a wharf topped with cranes 15 storeys high to create the impression of a dream ship. The air plaza will be a fantasy aircraft hangar in which there will be lighter-than-air balloons, vintage airplanes, and many odd and unique experimental aircraft. The land plaza will represent a colourful, colossal international traffic jam in which every imaginable vehicle, from a London taxi to a Third World pedicab, will be involved.

On Highway 86, a steel and concrete four-lane boulevard which emerges out of False Creek and soars into the air, every type of present-day air, land and sea transportation technology, from submarines to jogging shoes, will be presented in a surrealistic marathon.

The Esso Roundhouse is a restored nineteenth-century building converted into a fanciful exhibit of past transportation technology. Objects displayed include whimsical flying machines, a theatre housed inside an enormous airplane engine and the world's oldest Bugatti automobile.

### Special time periods

Still another way of expressing the theme of the exposition and another first for EXPO 86, will be the use of specialized periods. These are periods of time, ranging

from five days to two weeks, dedicated to highlighting some aspect of world transportation and communications.

One specialized period is devoted to polar transportation and communications, and features demonstrations of polar equipment used on and under water, on land and in the air.

Special events will also be held, like the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations of the Abbotsford International Airshow during the aviation period or the meeting of as many as 50 of the world's Tall Ships during the marine commerce period.



*Built on a pier in Burrard Inlet, the Canadian pavilion, Canada Place, will house a cruise ship terminal, a luxury hotel and world trade centre and a BD IMAX theatre.*

Allen Aerial Photos Ltd.

Another special event is the *DC-3* Air-mada, which will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the inaugural flight of the *DC-3*. Fifty *DC-3*s will participate in a flypast over the city of Vancouver and the Expo site on June 7, 1986.

### From opera to pop

The arts and entertainment will also be an important part of EXPO 86. Some 14 000 performances will occur in one of 14 venues on the main False Creek site. Well known attractions will perform at the Expo Theatre, a 4 500-seat covered outdoor facility with state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems. Cabarets, bandstands and even the boulevards of EXPO 86 will host various entertainers, including street performers.

Other on-site venues range from the 1 500-seat International Amphitheatre which will host ethnic attractions like Canada's Shumka Dancers, to the 3 000-seat Pacific Bowl where the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride will perform daily. By night, the Plaza of Nations, under a large, glass canopy, will light up with "Expo After Hours". Here, visitors will be able to enjoy a laser and fireworks extravaganza and cabarets with live entertainment. Entertainers will also perform daily in the Canadian pavilion.

Another area of the exposition will be the Folklife Festival. This festival will celebrate the folk culture of Canada's native and settler groups in an area surrounded by wooden buildings and boardwalks and a grassy area much like a village green.

Traditional ceremonies, games and sports, many of which will involve audience participation, will be included. Each week a native group and a particular nationality will be featured. Ethnic cuisine will be highlighted, and two theatres will accommodate the music, dance, story-telling, theatre and other performing arts of native and folk cultures across Canada.

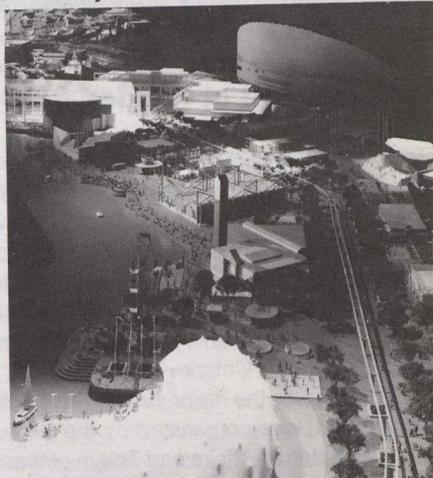
Off site, EXPO 86 will present, in three of Vancouver's major theatres, the longest, largest and most ambitious Canadian festival of the performing arts since Expo 67. The 1986 World Festival will host more than 300 Canadian and international performances of dance, theatre and music during its five-and-a-half month run.

A number of exhibitions are also planned for EXPO 86. One of the most important ones will be *Ramses II and His Times*. This exhibit will include 80 objects from the reign of the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses II, also known as Ramses the Great, who ruled from 1290 to 1224 BC. Selected from the collection at the Cairo Museum in Egypt, the objects range from monumental statuary to gold jewelry to rare burial objects.

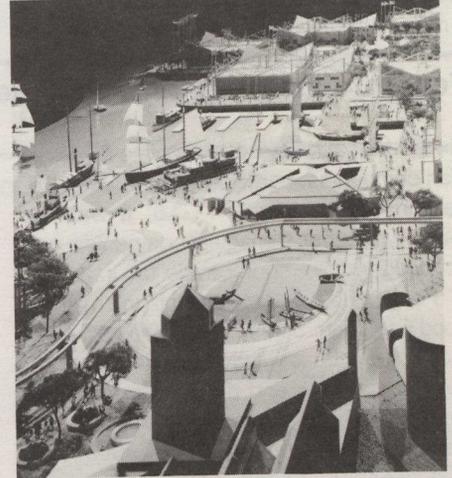
### Scale model views of EXPO 86



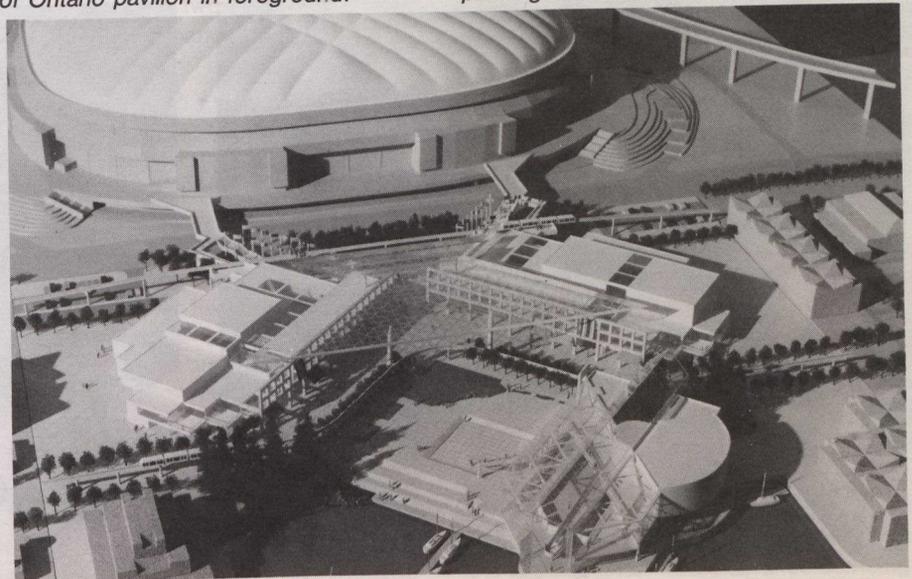
The 1:100 scale model of EXPO 86 in the Expo Display Centre which is now open seven days a week, offers visitors a preview of the 173-acre world exposition site.



The main False Creek site, looking west to the BC Place Stadium with curved outline of Ontario pavilion in foreground.



The Alberta pavilion in the foreground on the main site with the monorail track passing over Marine Plaza.



The British Columbia pavilion with the stadium in the background. A Plaza of Nations at the centre of the complex leads to a man-made forest and coastal rockery at the water's edge.

## Office for liaison with United States banks

Minister for International Trade James Kelleher has announced that an office has been established in the Canadian embassy in Washington, D.C., to promote, evaluate and co-ordinate Canada's efforts to increase the procurement of Canadian goods and services for World Bank Group and Inter-American Development Bank projects.

The objective of the Office for Liaison with International Financial Institutions (OLIFI), will be to increase Canadian procurement and co-financing in these financial institutions through information gathering and dissemination, and marketing assistance to Canadian exporters, and the representation of Canadian expertise to bank officials.

Mr. Kelleher said that Canada's success in obtaining contracts from the two international financing institutions (IFIs) depends

on timely collection and dissemination of project information, followed up by aggressive private sector initiatives.

The office will serve as the centre of information and services for Canadian companies as well as those in the public and private sector who are actively engaged in pursuing opportunities with the Washington-based development banks. It will be the point of contact for Canadian posts abroad seeking information on projects financed by the banks.

Through regular contact with bank officials and the analysis of bank documents, the office will collect information on the procurement and co-financing opportunities, assess it in terms of sectors and markets of interest to Canada, and provide the information for interested parties. It will establish and

maintain a current database containing information on all projects that it has identified.

In addition to counselling Canadian companies in the development of specific marketing strategies and providing advice, the office will monitor the procurement activities of other major donor countries and recommend measures to improve Canada's record of success.

The office will participate in seminars with the business community and public sector officials to publicize the banks' activities and advise on their structure, operations and bidding procedures. It will also advise the IFIs on various instruments available from Canada, including the use of EDC financing and insurance services, the programs of the Canadian International Development Agency, and the Canadian Commercial Corporation's facility for government-to-government contracting.

## Food products from Canada well represented at Foodex 85 trade fair in Japan

Six food associations, representing 29 Canadian companies, participated in Foodex 85, held in Tokyo, March 11-15. It was the fourth year that Canadian companies participated in the Foodex trade fair in Japan.

Foodex 85 was Japan's tenth International Food Exhibition. Some 22 countries exhibited food products ranging from delicatessen, seafoods, pastas and desserts to drinks. It was estimated that approximately 120 000 people attended the show this year.

The associations that represented Canada were the Canadian Food Processors Association from Ottawa, Ontario; the Wild

Blueberry Association of North America from Fredericton, New Brunswick; the National Dairy Council of Canada from Ottawa, Ontario; the Canadian Meat Council from Toronto, Ontario; the Canadian Association of Fish Exporters from Ottawa, Ontario; and the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency from Brampton, Ontario.

Foodex was the major event in a nine-day program in Japan organized by the Department of External Affairs and Tokyo embassy staff. Also included were tours of Japanese retail outlets and three processing plants.

Japan is Canada's second most important

market for agricultural and food products. Exports in all categories amount to \$1.5 billion.

A number of Canadian company representatives at Foodex said that the sustained effort to penetrate the Japanese market is producing positive results. Lad Javorek, the director and general manager of export for Cobi Foods International Inc. of Berwick, Nova Scotia, said that "sustained personal contact was necessary to develop the Japanese export food market". The Canadian companies wishing to export, he suggested, should visit Japan a minimum of once a year, over and above trade fair appearances.



Canada's ambassador to Japan, Barry Steers, (centre) and Arthur May, deputy minister for fisheries and oceans, survey a Canadian display of fish and seafood at Foodex 85.



Visitors to the tenth International Food Exhibition, Foodex 85, in Tokyo, Japan enjoy samples of Canadian wine distributed by one of the participants.

## Program to rescue boat people

Immigration Minister Flora MacDonald has announced that Canada will be one of the 13 initial participating countries in an international program to rescue Vietnamese boat people in the South China Sea.

"Canada has always taken a lead role in providing a home for Vietnamese boat people," said Miss MacDonald "but I see this program as something more than just resettlement. It will save lives," she added.



Flora MacDonald

Canada's participation in the Rescue at Sea Resettlement Offers Program (RASROP) began April 1 and will involve accepting up to 450 boat people a year as part of the federal government's 1985 refugee quota of 3 700 Indo-Chinese. This represents an increase of 700 over the 1984 level.

RASROP was organized by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in response to reports that merchant ships operating in the South China Sea were deliberately avoiding rescuing boat people, abandoning them instead to face starvation, drowning and pirates. The 13 countries involved in RASROP are committed to accept up to 2 500 people.

Miss MacDonald said the promise of resettlement by Canada and the dozen other countries to 2 500 people "will provide motivation for ships from countries which can not provide resettlement of many refugees to rescue the boat people".

## Teleguide service in Japan

Infomart of Canada has signed a licensing deal to establish the first commercial public-access videotex system in Japan.

Robert McConnell, Infomart president and chief executive officer, announced the agreement with Mitsui and Company to operate a system in Tokyo similar to Infomart's Teleguide system in Toronto, San Francisco, Sacramento and Phoenix, Arizona. Teleguide is a computer service in public places that provides information on everything from sports and entertainment events to weather.

Mitsui, a general trading company, will place 50 terminals in busy pedestrian areas of Tokyo by May.

## Additional Canadian troops join NATO forces in Europe

Defence Minister Erik Nielsen and External Affairs Minister Joe Clark have announced that an additional 1 200 troops are being sent to Europe to join the established 5 900-member complement.

The troops are scheduled to arrive in Europe this summer and are expected to be in place by the summer of 1986.

Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Clark described the move as "a first, early step toward meeting our commitments in Europe to our North American Treaty Alliance (NATO) allies".

In addition to sending more troops, Mr. Nielsen said, an infantry battalion group in Canada will be designated to fulfil Canada's commitment to the multi-national Allied Command Europe Mobile Force, which is intended to reinforce Europe during a crisis.

This battalion will be separate from the Canadian Air-Sea Transportable Brigade Group (CAST), which is committed to reinforcing northern Norway in the event of

Soviet attack. The Canadian commitment to CAST will be maintained.

Of the 5 900 military members of Canadian Forces Europe, about 5 500 are stationed at Canadian forces bases in Lahr and Baden-Soellingen in West Germany. The remainder are located throughout Europe at various NATO formations, including those in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Norway.

Another 2 200 Canadian and 900 German civilians are employed by Canadian Forces Europe.

The two principal military formations are 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, based in Lahr, and 1 Canadian Air Group, based at Baden-Soellingen to operate three squadrons of fighters.

Mr. Clark said increasing the number of Canadian troops demonstrates "the constancy of the Canadian position" as a member of the NATO alliance.

## Various sectors represented at economic conference

Canada's first National Economic Conference, which was aimed at finding consensus on the country's major economic problems, was held in Ottawa, March 22-23.

Chaired by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, the two-day conference was attended by 136 delegates and included leaders from labour, business, politics and consumer groups. Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke addressed the conference at the request of Mr. Mulroney because he hosted a similar conference two years ago.

The conference marked the first time in the country's history that business and labour representatives, women's groups, the voluntary sector, the poor, native groups and religious leaders met in a public forum to advise the prime minister and his cabinet on major economic issues.

Employment, chosen as the conference theme, was the focus of three televised plenary sessions at the city's Congress Centre. There were also ten workshops, on such subjects as social programs, labour standards, changing work patterns, regulation and incentives.

Finance Minister Michael Wilson opened the conference by predicting the deficit will be almost \$1 billion higher than his November forecast of \$34.5 billion as a result of lower-than-predicted government revenues. Mr. Wilson told the conference it is essential that the deficit be brought under control if economic growth is to occur.



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (right) greets Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, a guest speaker at the economic conference.

Speaking at the opening dinner of the conference, Mr. Mulroney promised that the people represented would play a major part in determining the direction his government will take. He outlined the problems he believed Canada faced and he spoke about what he called the promise inherent in reaching a new national understanding.

Delegates to the meeting agreed that more jobs are needed in Canada and interest rates should be allowed to fall.

## Authentic hand-carved Haida canoe to float at Expo



A moment of Haida history was re-created on the shores of False Creek in Vancouver, British Columbia when artist Bill Reid and carvers Gary Edenshaw and Simon Dick joined EXPO 86 officials in launching an authentic hand-carved Haida canoe.

As part of a joint project by EXPO 86 and the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology to revive ancient traditions and skills of native canoe building, noted Haida artist Bill Reid and carvers Gary Edenshaw and Simon Dick were commissioned to hand-carve an authentic Haida canoe.

EXPO 86 Commissioner General Patrick Reid said that "since the theme of the 1986 World Exposition is transportation and communications, it is appropriate for Expo to be involved in reviving the indigenous form of west coast transportation".

Carved from a single red cedar log, the canoe was constructed using traditional

carving techniques. The complicated process involves drying and digging out a carefully selected log which is then steamed using heated rocks, water and a stretching and bracing system to achieve the maximum beam. The high extension is attached and the outside is adzed and decorated.

With the knowledge gained in this project Mr. Reid plans to construct another larger craft for use during EXPO 86. Full size Haida canoes have not been built in over 75 years and firsthand knowledge of the skill is almost lost. Only a few large canoes remain in existence and those that have survived are art treasures in major museums.

## Software authorization system stops stealing

A design team at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, Ontario has developed a system that they claim will prevent unauthorized copying or use of software.

The prototype device for the software authorization system (SAS) was invented by Michael Atkin, a fourth-year student working with Thomas Dean, an associate at the Ryerson Centre for Industrial Development.

The SAS system consists of a small box. The user inserts a card with an authorization code that is validated and matched by a special program built into a single chip.

The microprocessor-based system prevents a user from operating a personal computer unless he possesses a special authorization card (called the key) and inserts it into the lock correctly. There is

a unique key for each piece of software run on the machine.

Because of the needs for multi-tasking and local area networks, a single lock can accept up to 19 different keys.

The program for the system was written by Mike Kassam, a professor in Ryerson's electrical department. It is "encrypted" into the chip during manufacturing.

A study released by the Association of Data Processing Service Organizations, which is based in Arlington, Virginia, estimates that personal computer users illegally copy one version of software for every version sold. The study says this copying amounted to a \$600-million (US) loss for software companies in 1984 and \$1.3-billion over-all loss since 1981.

## Most distant star discovered

A Canadian team of astronomers in British Columbia has discovered an exploding star nearly a billion light years from earth.

"It is definitely the most distant star ever discovered," said Chris Pritchett, a University of Victoria physicist who was involved in the project with Bruce Campbell, of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria. Also on the team were a University of British Columbia astronomer and a resident astronomer of the Canada-France-Hawaii telescope in Hawaii.

The supernova — a star which explodes and becomes billions of times as bright as the sun before fading away — was observed in May 1983. As the star was not visible during the telescope viewing time, the scientists had no indication of the find until the recorded viewing data was processed.

## A leading 'chip' maker

Carleton University's *This Week* reports that the university's Electronics Department is the first one in Canada where undergraduate students can design, fabricate and test integrated circuits within one term.

Over a period of 16 years the Ottawa university has acquired the highly specialized and expensive equipment, manpower and computer design network to fabricate the silicon chips used to create integrated circuits.

According to Professor C.H. Chan, who teaches a course on integrated circuit design and fabrication at the university, the chips can be fabricated entirely in-house within a three-week period. This leaves five weeks for design and five weeks for testing and evaluation during a typical 13-week course.

Professor Chan says the manufacture of silicon chips normally takes anywhere from four to ten months if there is not an in-house fabrication facility.

Silicon chips are basic essentials in modern technology. Canadian universities interested in integrated circuit chip design usually use the national facility provided by the Canadian Microelectronics Corporation (CMC). The chips are manufactured in Canada by Northern Telecom under the auspices of the Canadian Microelectronics Centre. Designs are typically routed through the VLSI Implementation Centre at Queen's University in Kingston, where they are examined and put on large, multi-project chips, before being sent to Northern Telecom for fabrication.

This year will mark the second year that the fabrication of chips has been available within Carleton's Electronics Department.

## Private art collection featured in exhibition

A recent major exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery, *Selected View: The Longstaffe Collection 1959-1984*, was mounted to pay tribute to J. Ronald Longstaffe, one of Canada's leading collectors and private benefactors.

The exhibition was composed of about one quarter of the more than 1 000 works of art including paintings, sculpture, drawings, watercolours and graphics collected by Mr. Longstaffe between 1959 and 1984.



Le Bucheron, in oil by Alfred Pellán, 1947.

One hundred and eight artists of national and international distinction were represented in the 243 works of art.

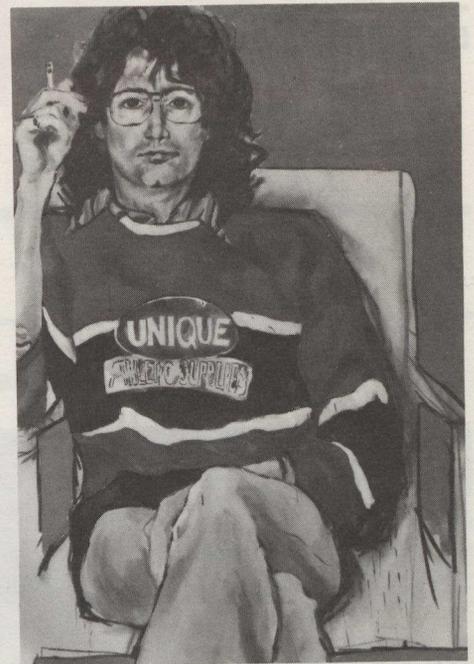
Several pieces by contemporary Canadian, American and European artists, such as Picasso, Magritte, Rouault, Rauschenberg, Stella, Jasper Johns, William Kurelek, David Milne, Mary Pratt and Paterson Ewen, were on view for the first time.

### Long-term collector

Mr. Longstaffe is a past president of the Vancouver Art Gallery Association, a former board member of the National Museums Corporation of Canada and executive vice-president and director of Canfor Corporation. He has been collecting art for more than 25 years and his gifts to the Vancouver Gallery's permanent collection are valued at more than \$1 million and are considered a milestone in the Vancouver Art Gallery's history and development.

In addition to the art works he has donated outright, Mr. Longstaffe has put some of his private holdings on extended loan to the Vancouver Art Gallery. They are considered as part of the gallery's national and international collection and are an important resource for mounting exhibitions of contemporary art.

When Mr. Longstaffe began to collect art, he decided to concentrate on contemporary Canadian art. He admits there was no systematic approach to the development of his collection, apart from his personal commitment



Unique Athletic Supplies (Eric Gamble), acrylic, charcoal on canvas by Lynn Donoghue, 1979.

to support Canadian artists. Financial manageability and access to the works were the only restrictive factors for what many regard as a collection of national importance.

The exhibition was funded by the government of British Columbia through the BC Cultural Fund and the BC Lottery Fund.

An illustrated catalogue was produced for the exhibition with an essay by Vancouver Art Gallery curator Lorna Farrell-Ward, who organized the exhibition. It includes Mr. Longstaffe's personal experiences and reminiscences as a collector, as well as a list of works and artists' biographies.

## Travelling alligator pie

Theatre Passe Muraille's adaptation of Dennis Lee's best selling book *Alligator Pie* is currently enjoying a very successful national tour.

The book, *Alligator Pie* was first published in 1974 to rave reviews by adults and children and it was voted the most popular children's book by librarians across Canada. The same year, Theatre Passe Muraille presented a stage version that completely sold out its extended run in Toronto.

Between 1974 and 1977, Mr. Lee published two more books, *Garbage Delight* and *Nicholas Knock*. Together, with *Alligator Pie*, they sold a total of 250 000 copies. In 1982, Theatre Passe Muraille revived the show using material from all three books and the show enjoyed a highly successful tour in southern Ontario in 1983-84.



J. Ronald Longstaffe with guest at the opening of *Selected View: The Longstaffe Collection 1959-1984* at the Vancouver Art Gallery, January 12, 1985. They are in front of Claude Tousignant's *Accelérateur dramatique* (1968).

SIWIK Productions

## Expo Info 24 hours a day



Since last summer, EXPO INFO phone lines have been providing information on all aspects of the 1986 World Exposition including employment, business opportunities, entertainment and general background. The service is provided 24 hours a day to allow people living in any time zone to phone at their convenience. The multilingual information staff is supported by a computer system that provides detailed information and initiates replies by mail. The number to call is (604) 660-EXPO.

## News briefs

**Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp** and Barbados Minister for Labour, Social Security and Sport Delisle Bradshaw, recently signed a reciprocal agreement on social security between the two countries. The agreement will co-ordinate the operation of Canada's Old Age Security program and the Canada Pension Plan with the Barbadian program which provides old age, invalidity and survivors' benefits. As many as 500 people may become eligible for Canadian benefits as a result of the agreement. Canada has similar agreements in force with France, Greece, Italy, Jamaica, Portugal and the United States.

**Teal Communications Inc.** of Vancouver, British Columbia has developed a new communications productivity device, Around, that enables computer users to sign on to information services and electronic mail systems with one key-stroke. A directory allows them to look up the service they want and automatically make a connection. The software can check for electronic mail or collect information from a data base at preset times. Transmission of messages, spread-sheets and word processing files are possible.

**Lavalin Bell Géomat Inc.**, a new company that will specialize in automated data management systems at national and international levels, has been formed in Montreal, Quebec by Bell Canada and Lavalin Inc. The new company will offer a wide range of services, covering installation, and all related aspects, of the information management systems necessary for automated network administration. Using advanced computer techniques, such as digital mapping and interactive graphics, the firm will create sophisticated management tools like land-related data bases.

**Olivetti Canada Limited** of Toronto is introducing an optical disc-based information retrieval system that can provide on-line storage for up to 20 million "page images." The Filenet Document Image Processor can store the exact images of documents, whether printed, typed, handwritten or drawn. The base system of 64 discs can provide minimum storage of 128 billion bytes. Each image can be fetched in less than 12 seconds.

**Nova Corporation** of Calgary, Alberta has announced that its international consulting arm has won a contract to help build a pipeline in northern China. Novacorp International Consulting will do design work on compressor controls, telecommunications and automation facilities for the line, which will carry 200 million cubic metres of gas a year from China's Zhongyan oilfield to a fertilizer plant in Hebei province.

**IBM Canada Limited** of Markham, Ontario, is testing a prototype information booth at its Toronto product centre in the Royal Bank Plaza. The booth, which looks like an arcade game, is aimed at "people who are intimidated by the high-tech atmosphere of a computer store," said Garnet Brace, its developer. Information on any of 36 topics that provide an overview of the company's products and the business problems, can be received by touching a list on a screen. Within a few seconds, a larger display screen shows a one-minute presentation on the topic.

**The Export Development Corporation** has announced the signing of a \$17.8-million (Cdn) multiple disbursements agreement loan to support sales by a number of Canadian exporters to N.Z. Forest Products Limited (NZFP) of New Zealand. The sales involve goods and services for the expansion and modernization of the company's Kinleith pulp production facility, a related sawmill and its Penrose wallboard mill. The exporters include Combustion-Engineering Superheater Limited of Ottawa, Ontario, H.A. Simons (International) Limited of Vancouver, British Columbia, Dorr Oliver Canada Limited of Orillia, Ontario, and Tuffline, a Division of Xomox Canada Limited of Downsview, Ontario.

**A University of Toronto research team** is planning to use the latest techniques of biotechnology to improve the yield, colour, shelf-life, flavour and nutrition of cultivated mushrooms. While commercial mushroom cultivation has become a multi-million-dollar industry, little has been done to improve mushroom strains, most of which were developed hundreds of years ago, said Paul Horgen, of the university's Botany Department. The university has received a \$20 000 grant from Campbell Soup Co. for research by Dr. Horgen and his colleague James Anderson. They will use cell fusion and recombinant DNA techniques to combine genetic attributes that don't cross strains naturally. Mushrooms more resistant to viruses that can devastate commercial crops could also be developed, said Dr. Horgen.

## No footprints in the air



Canadian astronaut Marc Garneau receives help leaving his footprints on Calgary, Alberta's Steven Avenue Mall, where many other celebrities have left their impressions. Marc Garneau is currently on a speaking tour of more than 30 Canadian cities where he is telling his story as the first Canadian in space.

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# Canada

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