

# Canada Weekly

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**CANMET serves Canada's energy research needs, 1**

**Boost for space program, 2**

**Support for African programs, 2**

**Canada pledges to maintain contribution to NATO's collective defence, 3**

**Metric conversion near completion, 4**

**Wheat to China, 4**

**Immigration changes for domestics, 4**

**Canada-EURATOM nuclear pact, 5**

**Captain's clock goes home, 5**

**Federal buildings save fuel, 5**

**Speed skater wins in Germany, 5**

**TV service uses new technique, 6**

**Former Nova Scotians invited home, 6**

**Canada's domestic letter-rate "A" stamp, 6**

**School for gifted science students opens in the fall, 6**

**News of the arts — theatre, prize, grants, 7**

**News briefs, 8**

## CANMET serves Canada's energy research needs

The Canada Centre of Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET), a branch of the federal ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources, is charged with ensuring the efficient and full use of Canada's natural resources by improving mineral and energy resource technology.

CANMET employs some 700 scientists, engineers, technicians and support staff, making it Canada's largest research organization serving the energy and mineral sectors.

Research is carried out in four groups of laboratories — energy research, mining research, mineral sciences and physical metallurgy research.

From its beginning, with the appointment of its first director in 1901, the centre has been entrusted to provide a technical knowledge base to aid the federal government in formulating policies and in advising regulatory agencies.

But after seven decades of existence, the scope of CANMET's scientific activities has greatly expanded.

The principal aim, however, is still to help the industry make an even greater

contribution to the national economy, says Dr. W.G. Jeffery, director-general of CANMET.

"Coal and petroleum problems have, from the start, been the subject of our investigation," he said. "But now energy research has been given added emphasis.

"The spectre of impending shortages of oil has spurred efforts to improve recovery and utilization of domestic supplies, to develop new and innovative sources, and to substitute alternative sources of energy," said Dr. Jeffery.

### Natural gas automobile fuel

Researchers at the Canadian Combustion Research Laboratory, part of CANMET's research and development facilities, are currently looking at natural gas as a possible automobile fuel and at types of domestic heating technologies.

A.C.S. (Skip) Hayden, a research scientist, who heads conservation and renewable energy research and development, said that he believes that natural gas is "quite a viable automobile fuel" and that a couple of utilities have been approached



*A CANMET employee works on oil furnace at the centre's combustion laboratory.*



External Affairs  
Canada

Affaires extérieures  
Canada



to participate in possible co-operative testing ventures.

The technology has been developed for natural gas to be used directly as a transport fuel. One way is to compress the gas for on-board vehicle storage in high pressure tanks.

A discussion paper on liquid fuel options published in 1980 by the federal Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources pointed out that compressed natural gas (CNG) can be used in vehicles with advantages similar to propane.

The Canadian Combustion Research Laboratory is currently involved in assessing the optimization of the present day vehicle carburetion system, including the use of leaded gasoline, the use of higher combustion ratios, recalibrating systems and special heating systems in the manifold.

#### Home heating assessed

In addition the laboratory is also testing different methods of heating homes in Ontario.

There are people living in and around Ottawa who are literally energy consumer guinea pigs for the laboratory.

They, in general, are people connected with the lab, or who have some peripheral relationship to it, and they are living in homes equipped with various types of domestic heating technologies — natural gas, oil and solid fuels.

"Once we have a fair idea of how these technologies perform in the lab environment we install them in these homes to measure the effect these technologies and modifications have on fuel consumption," says Mr. Hayden. "It gives us a 'real world' picture of how they perform."

#### Living habits recorded

The lab is also involved in field programs with other agencies. One of these programs is with the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada (HUDAC) and the National Research Council in a high-energy efficiency or low-energy use home.

"At the moment we're using parallel electric and conventional gas furnaces there to define the relative seasonal efficiencies of these units," said Mr. Hayden. "We will also be installing a high efficiency gas unit in this home to measure the seasonal effect in a low energy use environment."

The lab also has a co-operative program with Consumers' Gas where a series of medium to high efficiency furnaces

have been installed in Consumers' employees' homes in the Toronto area, he said, and where they are alternating between conventional furnaces and higher efficiency furnaces every one or two weeks.

Mr. Hayden said the majority of conventional gas furnaces in use today are singularly inefficient. But the cost of replacing the recently installed units with higher efficiency units may be prohibitive to the consumer, particularly if that person has just installed a new conventional furnace in the last two or three years.

Thus the lab has developed a condensing system adaptable to the conventional furnace. This system, which is now partially completed, would contain an induced draft system and add-on condensing heat exchanger. With such a system, savings could be as much as 30 per cent over the conventional unit. Use of the induced draft fan alone as a retrofit might save 10 to 15 per cent.

*(From Natural Gas Today, 1/1981.)*

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#### Boost for space program

The federal government will provide an additional \$132.1 million for space activities bringing to \$475.8 million the government's commitment to the space sector for the period 1981-85.

The funds will be used to strengthen and expand Canada's capabilities in communications, remote sensing and technological development, and to further strengthen Canadian participation in major European space projects.

"This 38 per cent increase in funding is a firm indication that the government is giving high priority to the space program. This commitment will advance our technological capability to meet Canadian and world needs in this key sector. It is also a reflection of the importance of high technology to Canada's economic development in the 1980s," said Minister of State for Science and Technology John Roberts in announcing the increase. The announcement is one in a series of steps being taken by the government to advance the new economic development strategy which was outlined in the October 1981 budget.

The budget paper on economic development in the 1980s singled out industrial investment and innovation as one of five priority areas. Last year, the government put forward a plan to raise research and development expenditures to 1.5 per

cent of gross national product.

The new funds will permit the continued development of an industrial prime contractor, SPAR Aerospace Limited, to produce satellites and satellite subsystems for the growing domestic and world market.

#### Initiatives

The new initiatives made possible by the increased funding include:

- Canada's participation in the large satellite program (LSAT, Europe's new communications satellite) of the European Space Agency. Through this program Canada will become a major partner with European high technology companies in Britain, Italy and the Netherlands;

- the engineering studies required to define a mobile satellite communications project (MSAT) to demonstrate new communications services for ships, aircraft, ground vehicles and portable installations; and

- the development of new remote sensing programs critical to resource management and territorial and environmental surveillance.

New projects along with those already under way are expected to have a positive impact on Canada's space industry. In addition to the expected social and economic value of these programs, they will build up the advanced technological base in the country and bring Canada closer to established national research and development targets. It is anticipated that more than 1,000 new jobs will be created in different regions of the country over the next four years as a result of this decision and the expected growth in the world-wide demand for satellites and ground systems.

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#### Support for African programs

Canada will make a \$2-million contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross to support programs for victims of conflicts in Africa.

The grant, being made through the Canadian International Development Agency, will provide relief for prisoners of war, inhabitants of occupied territories and displaced persons, as well as a tracing service to reunite families separated by conflicts. Seventy-five per cent of ICRC programs in Africa this year will provide assistance to displaced persons. The 1981 ICRC Africa appeal called for \$38.1 million in donations. Canada has supported the appeal since 1978.



## Canada pledges to maintain contribution to NATO's collective defence

Canada will continue to maintain an average growth of 3 per cent in its defence budget in line with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) guidelines, Minister of National Defence Gilles Lamontagne told representatives at a NATO meeting in Brussels last month.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan, who is honorary president of the North Atlantic Council, led the Canadian delegation at the meeting.

Speaking to NATO defence ministers, Mr. Lamontagne said that Canada would provide \$7 billion for defence expenditures in 1982-83, an increase of about 18 per cent over the figure for the previous year. A further increase of about 15 per cent is planned for 1983-84.

### Re-equipment on schedule

Reporting on Canada's re-equipment program, the Canadian defence minister confirmed that the first CF-18 jet fighter aircraft ordered from McDonnell-Douglas would be delivered to the Canadian forces this year and the first squadron would be in operation in 1983.

"We will maintain our commitment of 54 aircraft to SACEUR (Supreme Allied Command Europe) and will improve their readiness by increasing the number of those aircraft which will be operationally manned in peacetime," said Mr. Lamontagne. The Canadian frigate program is progressing on schedule, he added.

Mr. Lamontagne told his NATO colleagues that Canada "will be striving to maintain the momentum of our re-equipment programs and to keep our

contribution to collective defence of high quality and appropriate size".

During his stay in Brussels, the Canadian defence minister held bilateral talks with Norwegian Defence Minister Anders Sjaastad. Mr. Lamontagne informed Mr. Sjaastad that Canada would proceed with positioning of equipment, stores and ammunition in northern Norway for the lead battalion group of the Canadian Air/Sea Transportable Brigade Group. The equipment, sufficient for a 980-man battalion group, meets NATO criteria and will provide for enhanced training of the brigade group in Norway, said Mr. Lamontagne.

### Critical time

In his capacity as honorary president, Dr. MacGuigan delivered the main address at the meeting's opening ceremony. The Canadian external affairs minister told the members of NATO that the alliance was at a critical period in its history with the maintenance of an effective deterrent being of utmost importance.

"We, in this alliance, have been able to preserve peace until now because we have maintained a credible deterrent capability and the transatlantic bridge on which the essential solidarity of this alliance rests. These ingredients of success in the past will continue to be the keys to the success of our enterprise in the future," he said.

Dr. MacGuigan stressed that the NATO allies must communicate to the public that the alliance's main goal is to prevent war. "As leaders of the alliance, we all



A Canadian team competes in NATO small arms trials at Hammelburg, Federal Republic of Germany.

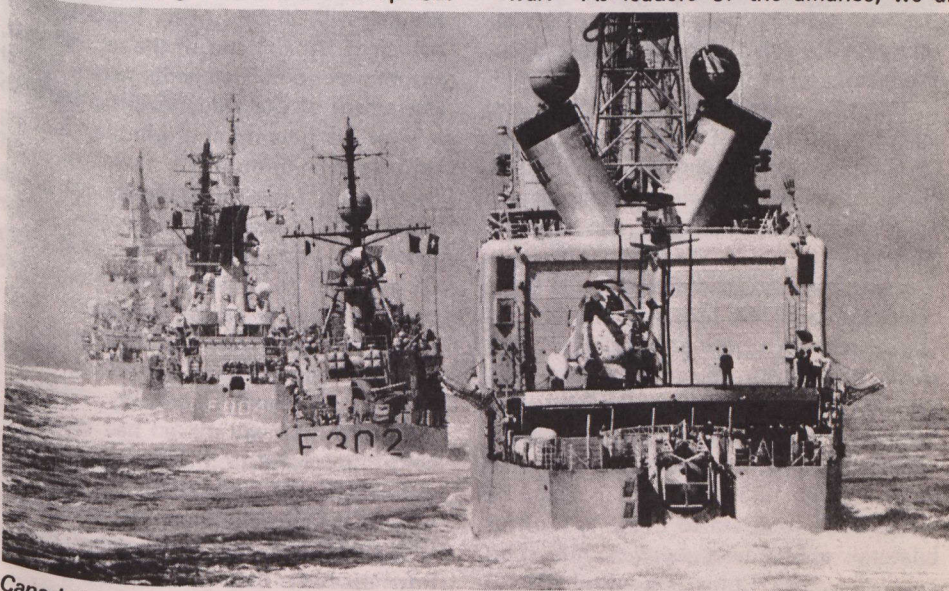
need to exercise great care lest there be misunderstanding of our fundamental desire to avoid war. Our peoples need reassurance that for us all war is anathema — not just nuclear war, but all war," said Dr. MacGuigan.

The alliance needs to maintain a sense of momentum in arms control as an integral part of its efforts to improve its security, Dr. MacGuigan told the meeting. He added that it is important for NATO allies and the Soviet Union to establish "a sufficient degree of shared interests based on mutual confidence" in the arms control negotiations. "It will take both sides to establish the basis but we must be sure to do everything in our power to bridge that gap rather than to widen it," said the Canadian external affairs minister.

### Common objectives sought

"We can also do more to demonstrate that ours is not just a military alliance — that it is a community of like-minded peoples defending commonly held principles, pursuing common objectives and promoting the widest possible co-operation in the interests of greater stability and welfare," said Dr. MacGuigan.

Following the NATO meeting, Dr. MacGuigan travelled to Ireland where he met with Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs J.C.I. Dooge. The two discussed international issues such as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, North-South relations, the Middle East, Namibia and Afghanistan. They also discussed bilateral issues, as well as questions relating to the European Economic Community (EEC).



Canada is represented in NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic.

Department of National Defence photos



## Metric conversion near completion

Metric conversion of retail food scales started simultaneously in 21 cities across Canada in January. It will progressively extend to the rest of the country within the next two years according to schedules established by local industry committees in different areas.

Canada Canada  
metric métrique



The metric system is now a fact of life in Canada: weather information, road signs, gasoline, automobiles, drugs, chemicals, beverages, textiles, prepackaged items in food stores, and many other items are now measured in metric units such as degrees Celsius, litres, metres and grams.

The selling of individually-weighted food items in metric units and the conversion of retail food scales marks the virtual completion of metric conversion for Canadian consumers.

By the end of 1983 metric units will be used by the majority of Canadians for all normal commercial and legal purposes.

### Scales changed

Advertising and selling food weighed in stores — such as fresh meat and produce, cheese, fish, nuts, candy, confections etc. — and the scales used to weigh these products are controlled by weights and measures regulations.

In 1977 Parliament passed the Statute Law (Metric Conversion) Amendment Act, giving the Canadian government authority to regulate the conversion of retail food scales. Regulations under the Weights and Measures Act were published on August 7, 1981 and are now law. The contents of the regulations were based on industry and consumer recommendations and were designed to ensure that conversion was fair and equitable to both retailers and consumers.

Information, including price conversion tables, signs, pamphlets and handbooks, will be provided by Metric Commission Canada, which is responsible for the change to metric, to assist both con-

sumers and retailers during the change-over.

### Benefits

For the most part metric conversion to date has progressed without any major problems.

The conversion of many items has created benefits for consumers and retailers. For example, metric packaging of prepackaged items means fewer package sizes which results in easier comparison shopping for consumers and more orderly shelf-stocking and reduced inventory requirements for the retailer. In addition because it takes less time, energy and money to produce, distribute and maintain control over a reduced number of package sizes there are greater savings for manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers.

Increased public awareness of the metric changes has been a major concern to many industries which have already converted to the metric system. The Metric Commission has established a number of public awareness committees in many sectors to help in the conversion process in industrial sectors. They attempt to provide correct information to the public on the changes in the industry, to close the information gap between the sector planning level and employees in the various sectors across Canada and to improve the professional communications network through such means as industry trade magazines.

## Wheat to China

Canada will provide the People's Republic of China with \$2 million worth of wheat as emergency relief in two disaster-ridden provinces.

The food aid is in direct response to an appeal made by the People's Republic of China to the United Nations World Food Program, which estimates the emergency food needs of China to be about \$450-460 million.

Two provinces, Hubei and Hebei were both hit hard by natural disasters in 1980: Hubei is suffering the effects of the worst flooding in 26 years, while Hebei has had the worst drought in 37 years. The two provinces are predominantly agricultural with a total population of more than 95 million.

Canada's food aid to China is the first bilateral aid project between the two countries since China was given official aid-recipient status last June.

## Immigration changes for domestics

The federal government has announced new measures to assist foreign domestics working in Canada to gain permanent resident status. Foreign domestics currently employed in Canada on a temporary basis and new entrants coming to Canada will be assisted by the new measures.

The measures follow an extensive federal review of the policy on foreign domestics. Policy changes were announced last spring to improve conditions of foreign domestics and to encourage a greater number of qualified domestic workers to enter the country as permanent residents (landed immigrants).

Domestic workers currently in Canada who have been here two years, and who wish to be considered for permanent resident status, will be given the opportunity of gaining that status from within the country when their employment authorizations are due for renewal.

Assessment will be made by immigration officers, and those who have achieved a potential for self-sufficiency will be advised that they can make application for permanent resident status from within Canada. Those not yet sufficiently established or who have been here for less than two years will be given the opportunity for upgrading their skills to the point where they also can be considered for permanent resident status.

In future, new entrants coming to Canada as domestic workers will be selected on the basis of their personal suitability and demonstrated ability to undertake training or upgrading here which will help them become self-sufficient. At the end of the second year, an immigration officer will make a formal assessment of the worker's progress, with a view to determining whether landing action can be initiated.

Training for new entrants, for those currently here less than two years, or for those not yet sufficiently established in Canada, will be provided under terms set out in employer-worker contracts. Canadian employers will be required to provide a certain amount of free time each week for training or upgrading.

Employers will also be asked to contribute towards the cost of training during the time of study. Canada Employment Centres will provide counselling and guidance to domestic workers taking into account their interests and background.



## Canada-EURATOM nuclear pact

Canada and the Commission of the European Communities have completed amendment of an agreement on nuclear co-operation.

An exchange of letters by Canada and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) for the Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy brought to a close the amendment of a 1959 nuclear agreement between the two parties. The amending process began in 1978 with an exchange of letters.

The letters were exchanged in Brussels by Canada's Head of Mission to the European Communities Richard Tait and Vice-president of the Commission of the European Communities Wilhelm Haferkamp.

Under the amended agreement, EURATOM will provide Canada with the non-proliferation assurance it requires for the reprocessing and high enrichment of exported Canadian nuclear material. In addition, Canada will give EURATOM the long-term predictability it needs for using that material in its nuclear energy programs. The agreement, together with a similar one concluded with Sweden and others under negotiation, is expected to form the basis for an effective Canadian non-proliferation framework.

EURATOM has been one of Canada's major nuclear partners for more than 20 years. In 1980, Canada exported some 3,500 metric tons of uranium worth \$225 million to EURATOM member states. Member states have also invested more than \$1 billion in Canadian uranium resource development and a number of them are considering CANDU nuclear technology.

## Captain's clock goes home

The Vancouver Maritime Museum has bought the chronometer used by Captain George Vancouver during his 1790-1795 explorations of the northwest coast of North America.

The museum paid about \$89,000 for the chronometer, outbidding a group from Australia at Christie's auction house in London, England. Three-quarters of the money bid by the museum was provided by the federal government and the rest by the British Columbia government and Vancouver city council.

"The number of artifacts we can trace back directly to Vancouver is almost nonexistent.... For a city named Vancouver,



Captain Vancouver's Arnold 176.

therefore, this was a very special link," said Robin Inglis, the museum's acting director.

The chronometer, designed by John Arnold of London at Captain Vancouver's request, was subsequently used by Commander Matthew Flinders, who circumnavigated Tasmania and surveyed parts of the Australian coast, and Captain William Bligh of *Bounty* fame, in his capacity as Governor of New South Wales.

## Lost for more than a century

The Arnold chronometer was believed lost for nearly 179 years. It was discovered earlier this year in a private home in England.

Two British scholars Andrew David and David Harries, traced it through various historical documents.

The instrument, an eighteenth-century technological breakthrough that enabled mariners to correctly determine longitude, was made in 1791 and was called the *Arnold 176*.

The chronometer, which cost £84 when it was made, was delivered to Captain Vancouver at Nootka Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island in September 1792. It remained aboard his ship, *HMS Discovery*, until the ship's return to England in 1795.

Captain Vancouver made frequent references to the chronometer in his writings.

When it was found earlier this year, the Vancouver Maritime Museum began a fund-raising campaign to buy back the instrument.

## Federal buildings save fuel

The federal government cut energy use in its buildings by 5 per cent in 1979-80 compared to the 1978-79 figure.

The government, in its fourth annual report on its internal energy conservation program, indicated that the drop in energy consumption represented a \$17-million saving. Since the program began, more than \$160 million has been saved through reduction of energy consumption, now 15 per cent compared to the base year.

The objective of the program is to hold annual energy consumption to a level of at least 10 per cent below that of 1975-76.

The program has been expanded by the government to include three new initiatives. Through supplementary funds to departments and agencies the federal internal retrofit program accelerates the upgrading of federal buildings and facilities to allow higher levels of energy performance. The off-oil program assists in financing the capital cost of converting federal buildings and facilities from heating oil to alternative forms of energy. Under a third scheme, the propane grant program, more than 8,000 federal government motor vehicles could be converted to propane over the next five years.

## Speed skater wins in Germany

Canadian speed skater Gaetan Boucher placed first in the opening international speed skating meet held recently in West Berlin.

Boucher, 23, of St. Foy, Quebec, jumped to an early lead in the two-day sprint competition, setting a course record in the 1,000-metre race, and held on to win the next day against a field of 30 skaters from ten countries.

Boucher totalled 154.38 points in four races — two at 500 metres and two at 1,000 metres.

A seven-year veteran with a long list of victories at the international level — including a silver medal at the 1980 Winter Olympics — Boucher is still looking for his first world title.

"It's one thing that keeps me going," he said. "As long as I have a chance at winning the world championships I'll keep training hard, and trying hard to set new world records."

The world sprint championships are set for the Netherlands in February.

A.C. Cooper Ltd.



## TV service uses new technique

A Canadian communications company is using a different kind of broadcasting technique to provide French-language programming to viewers in British Columbia.

The new service provided by Canadian Satellite Communications Incorporated of Montreal will be the second French-language one in the province; the other is provided by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The new network is expected to be the first in the world to broadcast commercial TV programming in what is known as the "scrambled mode" by means of satellite to remote areas of Canada. Only subscribers to the service will have the necessary equipment to unscramble the TV signal. The service will use Canada's *Anik A* satellite to transmit programs.

Jack Lina, director general of Canadian Satellite Communications said the company's main function is to sell cheaply TV and radio programming using the satellite system. At present there are 45 applicants seeking Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) licences to serve 252 B.C. communities with a potential of 30,800 subscribers.

Applications being processed by the CRTC are for communities scattered across British Columbia. They include Alert Bay, Ashcroft, Bouchie Lake, Burns Lake, Clearwater, Canal Flats, Fort St. James, Granisle, Hixon, Hudson's Hope, Keremeos, Kitsault, Lac La Hache, Lovell Cove, Oyama, Pemberton, Port McNeil, Radium, Sointula, Talkwa, Vanderhoof and Wyndell.

## Canada's domestic letter-rate "A" stamp

The Canadian Post Office has issued a domestic letter-rate stamp with the letter A instead of the traditional denomination shown in Arabic numerals for the first time in its history.

The "A" stamp, designed by Raymond Bellemare of Montreal, features the Canadian maple leaf and is printed in one colour, Canada's official red.

Final approval of the value of the stamp had been delayed until late in December and the desired date of its issue did not allow enough time to print, distribute and have ready for sale stamps bearing the correct numerical value. As a result the stamp was designed with the letter A allowing the stamp to be available in postal outlets for immediate use when the new rate was announced. The value of the stamp is equal to 30 cents, which became effective on January 1, 1982. The "A" stamp may be used for postage within Canada only, and not on mail to other countries because of conventions of the Universal Postal Union, the international body that regulates the exchange of mail among member countries.



## Former Nova Scotians invited home

The largest family reunion ever held in Canada is expected to bring over 50,000 people to Nova Scotia in 1982 to discuss their roots.

The entire province is expected to celebrate Nova Scotia's Old Home Summer Heritage Festival. The festival extends an invitation to all former Nova Scotians to come home in 1982 and experience the pride of being a native of that province.

The Old Home Summer Heritage Festival will comprise 200 festivals and events including family reunions, firemen's reunions and 12 months of partying.

The festival is slanted towards the province's multicultural heritage. Nova Scotia's roots are firmly planted in English, Irish, French, Indian, Scottish and German backgrounds, to name a few. The celebrations will carry an ethnic flavour — a salute to multiculturalism with events such as handicraft festivals, Scottish pipers, fiddlers and native Indian exhibitions filling the festival agenda.

### Relatives throughout Canada

An estimated 86 per cent of Nova Scotia homes have first generation relatives living elsewhere in Canada. According to festival organizers, replies on RSVP cards mailed to former Nova Scotians are expected from more than one in every three families.

The department of tourism in Nova Scotia is asking for the names and addresses of people who have left the province from friends or relatives still residing in Nova Scotia. They expect to

receive a list of about 300,000 people.

Fifty thousand people are expected to reply to the invitation. In January, February and March newsletters will be sent to each person outlining special events, attractions, tours and general information on Nova Scotia.

Invited guests will receive a tour kit in April, complete with a personalized Captain's Log to record their vacation in the province.

The rest of the year has been dedicated to greeting, with as much flair and fun as possible, friends and relatives who have come home.

## School for gifted science students opens in the fall

A new school for gifted science students is scheduled to open at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto next September.

The school will aim at producing graduates with the skill of scientists such as David Suzuki and Carl Sagan, who combine mastery of their professional fields with virtuosity in public communication.

Twenty students from Ontario will be chosen to sharpen their scientific and communications skills in a one-semester session.

The school will offer courses in advanced physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics at the Grade 13 level, as well as special training in the presentation of scientific ideas to non-scientists.

The school will depart from the traditional mode of science teaching, said John Fowles, chief education officer of the centre. It will stress practical scientific and communication studies, giving students access to the unusual laboratory and workshop facilities there.

The students will be called upon to devise ways to demonstrate science to the general public by means of exhibits, lectures and other media.

Though the science centre school will be unique in its emphasis on communication, there are elementary and secondary schools in Ontario and other provinces that run programs for gifted students. Programs in the humanities for the gifted exist at schools in Scarborough and North York.

In Aurora, Ontario, the Shad Valley Project at St. Andrew's College offers a four-week summer science program for outstanding students from private and public schools across Canada.



## Puppets enliven history of Quebec painting

*La Couleur chante un pays!*, a dramatic puppet show relating part of the history of Quebec art was presented recently at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts by the Théâtre de l'Avant-Pays.

The play, enacted by both actors and puppets, reconstructs some outstanding events in Quebec's history of painting, from the time when Hamel and Plamondon were the fashionable portrait painters to the ideological battles between the academicism of the Fine Arts School and the *Peinture vivante* movement headed by Pellan and Borduas.

Five actors handle 18 puppets based on paintings from the museum's collection, and they themselves appear in masks to portray painters such as Ozias Leduc, Marc-Aurèle Fortin and John Lyman.

### A look behind the scenes

*La couleur chante un pays!* also looks behind the scenes of a museum: the conservator courts the woman curator and the night watchman has to humour Morrice's *Young Woman in Black Coat* about her complexion, while an Indian, from a Légaré painting, has wandered astray. In the meantime, two of Krieghoff's peasants drink and make merry.

The approach of the play is to have the puppets present Quebec art in a realistic manner: it is history told in a



Ti-Toine, one of Krieghoff's peasants in *Les Chutes de Montmorency*.

new way with the characters living, moving, dancing and singing through two centuries of painting.

The original text of *La couleur chante un pays!* has been published by the Editions Québec-Amérique, as part of their Jeunes Publics collection. The publication is fully illustrated with colour and black-and-white reproductions of works in the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' collection.

## Canada-Switzerland literary prize

Writer Gilbert La Rocque of Montreal has won the Canada-Switzerland Literary Prize for his novel *Les Masques*, published in 1980.

The prize will be awarded in Switzerland in the spring. The annual prize, financed jointly by the Canada Council and the Fondation Pro Helvetia of Switzerland, provides \$2,500 in alternate years to a Swiss or Canadian writer for a work published in French in the preceding eight years.

La Rocque has published five novels since 1970. During his career, he has written numerous articles in periodicals and been active as a literary critic and translator. He is currently director of publishing at Editions Québec/Amérique.

*Les Masques* is the third volume in a trilogy which includes *Après la boue* and *Serge d'entre les morts*. Its narrator, who is himself a writer, is obsessed by memories and fantasies. As he explores his interior world, the masks of illusion fall away and the truth is revealed.

Each year the juries for the Canada-Switzerland Literary Prize choose a category of literature — the novel, poetry, drama or serious non-fiction — in which to award the prize. This year the Canadian jury proposed seven novels to the Swiss jury.

## Cultural grants

The federal government is providing \$565,700 in project grants to Canadian cultural organizations under its special program of cultural initiatives.

The program, set up to assist arts and culture organizations and activities across Canada, is operated by the Department of Communications. Initially outlined by the government in December 1980, the program has a budget of \$39.6 million to be distributed over three fiscal years.

Under one part of the program, which supports special cultural projects of national character or significance, grants totalling \$524,700 are being made available for 15 projects across Canada. In addition, a project grant of \$41,000 is being given to the Toronto Theatre Festival for its Stage Directions conference. This particular grant falls under another section of the program designed to strengthen the management of Canadian professional non-profit performing arts organizations.



Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Yves Bellemare photos

Puppets and actors with Théâtre de l'Avant-Pays.



## News briefs

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has named historian George F.G. Stanley as lieutenant governor of New Brunswick. Mr. Stanley, 74, a native of Calgary, is director of Canadian studies at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. He succeeds Hedard Robichaud, who retired in October after serving two terms as lieutenant governor.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Herb Gray visited Chicago last month at the invitation of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations (CCFR). Mr. Gray presented the opening speech to the CCFR conference on Canada-United States relations. The minister also met with representatives of the business community and the press to discuss issues relating to Canada and the United States.

Agriculture Canada is permitting imports of cattle from continental Europe and sheep from France this year. Shipment of the animals would take place in the fall of 1982. Import applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, for cattle originating in Austria, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland and Germany, and for sheep from France. Livestock imports from Europe are being resumed this year because the outbreak of foot and mouth disease which struck last year has been brought under control, according to the department.

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has announced that benefits to more than 1.3 million Canada Pension Plan recipients increased effective January 1, 1982. The annual adjustment, which this year is 12.3 per cent, is based on the rise in the cost of living over the past year. Currently some 837,700 persons receive Canada Pension Plan retirement pensions, 94,100 are disability pensioners and 276,300 persons receive surviving spouses pensions.

Fan Hanover, an Albatross filly owned by Dr. Glen Brown of Brampton, Ontario was chosen the 1981 harness horse of the year by the United States Trotting Association. The horse, which won the Little Brown Jug earlier this year, received 133 of the 248 ballots. She had become the first filly to win the Jug, the final leg of pacing's Triple Crown in the United States. Fan Hanover earned \$497,818 this year placing first in 17 of the 23 races she entered, including 12 stakes. Her owner plans to race her again in 1982 and then breed her in 1983.



Figure skater Elizabeth Manley (right) of Nepean, near Ottawa, shows her mother, Joan, the bronze medal she won in the women's singles competition of the world junior figure skating championships held recently in West Germany.

The federal government is contributing \$347,628 to Memorial University in Newfoundland for a nutrition education project in Labrador. The goal of this project is to increase nutrition awareness and knowledge, and to influence food habits of residents of the Labrador Coast.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a \$6.7-million (U.S.) loan agreement to support the sale of Canadian goods and services to Denmark. The project involves the sale of one DHC-7 aircraft, related spares, equipment and services by de Havilland of Canada Limited to Maersk Air I/S. The aircraft will be used on the airline's scheduled route network in Denmark.

Computing Devices Company of Ottawa has won a \$5-million contract to supply computerized acoustic equipment for Britain's fleet of maritime patrol aircraft. Under the contract, Computing Devices will build some of the equipment that will be used in post-flight analysis of aircraft tapes made during anti-submarine patrol by Britain's Nimrod airplanes.

The government of Manitoba has established a 24-hour "hotline" to handle environmental accidents in Manitoba. The telephone line to the province's main accident reporting centre, was set up to improve the province's emergency response to environmental mishaps. Industries such as bulk oil dealerships, transport trucking agencies, fertilizer storage sites, pesticide dealers, chemical

companies, hazardous waste users and weigh scale operators are being made aware of the line.

More than 3,000 Greek and Italian high school students are participating in a McGill-Montreal Children's Hospital genetic screening program to identify carriers of the gene for an incurable hereditary anemia called Thalassemia. The program is similar to one McGill established for Montreal's Jewish community in 1972 to identify carriers of the Tay-Sachs gene. The incidence of Tay-Sachs disease decreased by 80 per cent in North America after the introduction of widespread testing. It is hoped that the same results can be achieved for Thalassemia disease in Quebec.

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