

# Canada Weekly

Ottawa  
Canada

Volume 13, No. 8  
February 20, 1985

**Toronto to build stadium with largest retractable roof, 1**

**Increased oil and gas drilling, 2**

**Biomass power plant for Guiana, 2**

**More trade urged with Mexico, 2**

**First Canadian telecommunications exhibition in India, 3**

**Climate improves for exports to Latin America, 4**

**Support for small business, 4**

**Continual motion promises more effective healing of joints, 5**

**"Air supermarket" expansion, 6**

**Practical baby wear, 6**

**Canadian cheese champions, 6**

**Computer whiz-kid, 6**

**News of the arts — painting, 7**

**News briefs, 8**

**Manotick mill still grinds grain to grist, 8**

## Toronto to build stadium with largest retractable roof

Ontario's first major sports complex with a retractable roof will be built on Canadian National Railway's land near the CN Tower in central Toronto.

The stadium, which will have what is believed to be the largest retractable roof in the world, is scheduled to be ready for the Toronto Blue Jays to open their 1988 American League baseball season.



*Model of domed stadium with largest retractable roof to be built next to the CN Tower in Toronto, Ontario.*

The new domed stadium will seat 50 000 to 55 000 for baseball and 55 000 to 60 000 for football. It will be 207 metres in diameter, with a clear height above the playing field of 60 metres and will cover a site area of 4.5 hectares.

To accommodate the conflicting demands of seating for football and baseball, some sections of seats may be built on radial tracks. The seats, which could rotate, could then be moved to meet the requirements of the games.

As well as being the home for the Toronto Blue Jays baseball club and the Toronto

Argonauts football club, the stadium will be used for conventions, trade shows, concerts and other commercial undertakings. Located on the edge of the city's downtown core, it will be connected to the newly opened Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

### Roof design studies

The design and specifications of the retractable roof have not as yet been determined. A three-member technical evaluation committee has spent a year studying 14 proposals for a retractable roof, and has come up with a short list of about five, said Daniel McAlister, vice-president of the Toronto architectural firm of Crang and Boake. The firm was selected to design the stadium itself.

It is expected that the design, or several designs, which meet the needs of football and baseball fans and players, can accommodate local weather conditions and can be adapted by the architects to fit the building practically and aesthetically, will be chosen within the next year.

The front-running proposals offer variations on a theme of maximum light, minimum shadow and quick operation in case of bad weather.

An air truss roof, which could be moved up and down a set of fixed posts like a canopy, has been designed by Crang and Boake, in conjunction with another Toronto firm and the French company, Aerazur Efa, renowned for their manufacture of airships.

This roof, made of fabric tubes filled with compressed air, is able to move up and down three 2.4-metre-wide masts to a maximum height of 152 metres.

DAF Indal Limited of Mississauga, Ontario has proposed a rotating roof — a fabric-covered aluminum frame — which can nest into itself, providing a maximum exposure of 50 per cent.

A third proposal, the Geiger fan roof, calls for a circular roof featuring sections that would rotate together like a folding paper fan.

The most successful retractable roof to date is that of the Pittsburgh Civic Arena, built in 1961, said Mr. McAlister. It covers



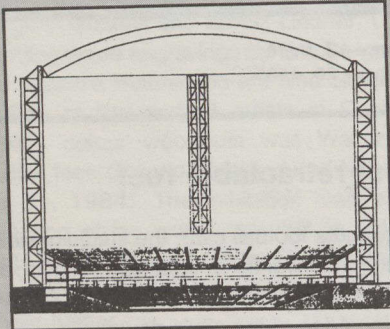
External Affairs  
Canada

Affaires extérieures  
Canada

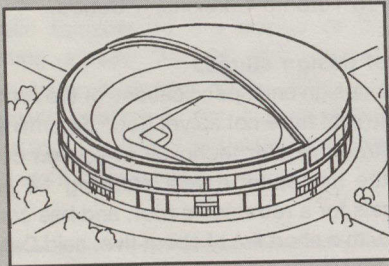


### Possible roof designs

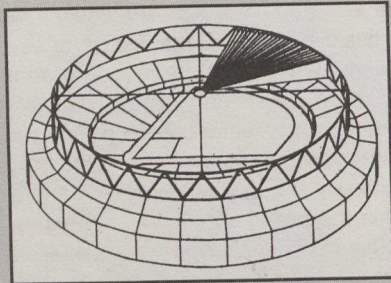
Sketches of three of the several retractable roof designs being considered for the stadium in Toronto.



Air truss



DAF Indal



Geiger fan

a diameter of 129 metres. Toronto's stadium roof, however, must cover a diameter of 213 metres. The difference in size requires the modifying of existing technology.

### Commercial financing

The cost of the new stadium is estimated at between \$130 million and \$150 million. The main financier will be a private sector consortium, headed by Trevor Eyton, chief executive officer of Brascan Ltd. The 13-member consortium which will contribute some \$70 million, includes: CN Rail, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Imasco Ltd., George Weston Ltd., Hiram Walker Resources Ltd., Olympia and York, Imperial Oil Ltd., John Labatt Ltd., Coca Cola Ltd., McDonald's Restaurants, Trilon Financial Corp. and Merrill Lynch Canada. Another partner is to be announced shortly.

The province of Ontario will supply

\$30 million from lottery funds as well as any cost of the retractable roof that exceeds \$34 million. Metropolitan Toronto will be asked to match the provincial contribution with \$30 million.

Construction of the stadium is expected to start in the fall of 1985, with the roof installation starting in early 1987.

### Increased oil and gas drilling

The *Daily Oil Bulletin* recently released figures showing that more oil and gas drilling took place in Canada in 1984 than in the record year of 1980.

In western Canada, the East Coast and Arctic frontiers, 9 031 wells were drilled in 1984, up 31 per cent more than in 1983, when 6 860 were drilled.

The total includes about 160 service wells, used to overhaul existing production wells. Total metres drilled rose 28 per cent, reflecting a continued high number of shallow-depth wells in the over-all total. Exploration drilling, including deeper holes, reached 2 790 wells, an increase of 714.

### Biomass power plant for Guiana

Biodev International Inc., formed by the SNC Group and the Nouveler Group to design and build biomass-fed power plants has signed its first international contract.

The \$9-million contract is for a 6.7-megawatt installation for Électricité de France at its Degrad des Cannes power station in French Guiana. Using sawmill waste and tropical wood, the unit is expected to save Électricité de France an estimated \$3 million a year in heavy oil costs.

The new gasification technology of using biomass to produce energy, was developed by Omnifuel Gasification Systems Limited of Toronto and adapted by Biosyn, a subsidiary of Nouveler Inc. of Montreal.

Producing energy from biomass is considered by many as a promising way for countries dependent on imported oil to become self-sufficient in energy. The feedstock can be wood, peat, straw or bagasse and the biomass produces a gas that can be used in a diesel engine as a substitute for oil or natural gas. This technology could generate the export of an estimated \$200 million worth of equipment over the next ten years.

Under the contract with Électricité de France, Biodev International will supply the biomass gasification equipment and a French manufacturer, Alsthom-Atlantique, will supply the diesel engine and generator.

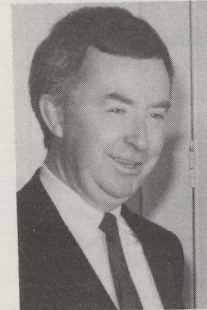
Alsthom-Atlantique has developed a diesel engine compatible with gas produced from biomass and has signed an agreement with Biodev International to jointly market this type of power station.

Nouveler Inc. is a holding company specializing in energy conservation and new energy sources.

The SNC Group is a leading engineer-constructor operating in Canada and internationally that is pioneering a number of processes for biomass gasification.

### More trade urged with Mexico

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark, in his first official visit to Mexico in mid January, emphasized trade matters in



Joe Clark

his talks with President Miguel de la Madrid, Foreign Relations Minister Bernardo Sepulveda, Trade Minister Hector Hernandez and Communications Minister Daniel Diaz.

"We have a solid basis of friendship on which to build, and I firmly believe that the challenge before us now is to search out every opportunity to weave an even closer partnership in the economic, trade and investment fields," Mr. Clark told a luncheon audience at the Mexican foreign ministry.

During the visit to Mexico, Mr. Clark's first official visit to Latin America, he proposed precise steps to expand the relationship between Canada and Mexico. He said the two countries have close political relations that are not reflected in economic exchanges.

To help meet interest payments to foreign banks, Mexico has had to cut imports by two-thirds since 1981. Canada's continued efforts to maintain or increase trade with Mexico have meant that Canadian imports in the country haven't dropped as sharply as those of many other countries.

In the first nine months of 1984, Canada imported \$1 016 billion in Mexican goods, mostly oil and automotive parts, while Mexico imported only \$248 million in Canadian goods.

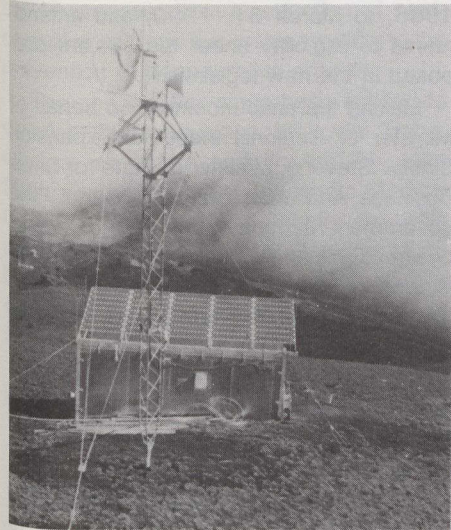
Both Mr. Clark and his Mexican counterpart, Mr. Sepulveda, praised each other's commitment to peace, world order and economic justice.

Mr. Clark expressed strong support for Contadora peace process in Central America. Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama are the four members of Contadora group.



## First Canadian telecommunications exhibition in India

Several Canadian companies that have had technological successes in the field of advanced telecommunications are being featured in Canada's first exhibition/seminar initiative in India.



View of the SR subscriber radio system from SR Telecom Inc.

The Canadian exhibition/seminar, which is intended to offer the opportunity to share Canadian solutions to modern problems in telecommunications and to increase business relationships with India, is being held in New Delhi from February 19 to 21 and in Bangalore from February 26 to 28.

The exhibition has some of the latest in Canadian-designed equipment while the seminars, which are being presented by some of the leading Canadian design and application executives, will deal with technological advances in particular areas where Canada has achieved widespread recognition as a world-leader in communications skills and equipment. The seminars are being highlighted by audio-visual presentations.

### Some of the leaders

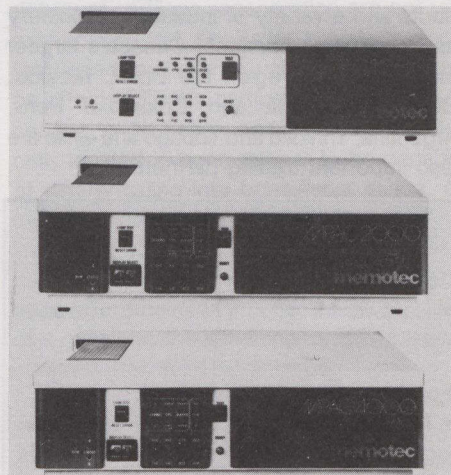
Two of the companies represented in India that are well-established leaders in telecommunications technology are SR Telecom Inc. of Saint-Laurent, Quebec and Spar Aerospace Limited of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec.

The point-to-multipoint microwave telecommunications system that connects telephone and data circuit subscribers to central exchanges, especially in remote areas, through the use of modern time-division-multiplex and demand-assigned-multiple-access (TDM-DAMA) techniques, was pioneered by SR Telecom Inc. The system is a flexible and reliable alternative to cable facilities.

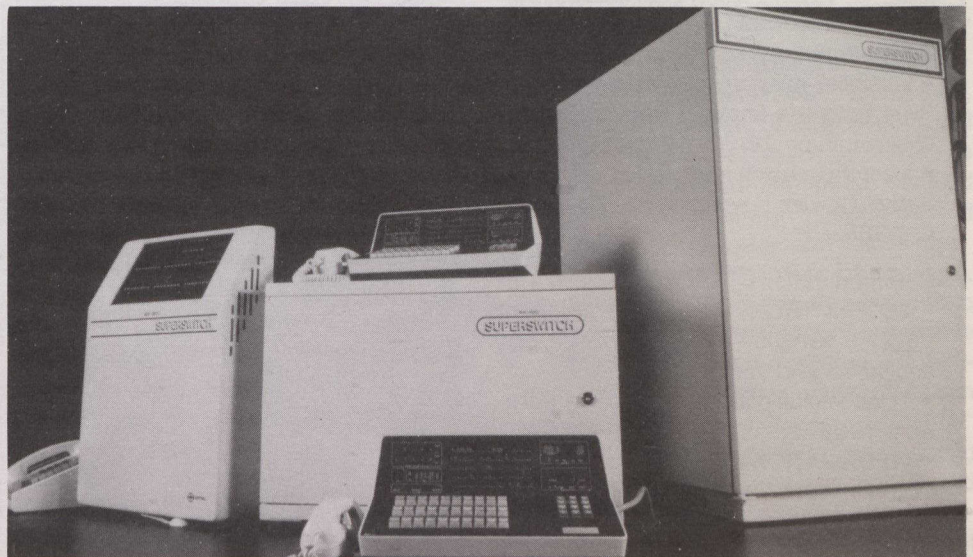
The Communications Systems Division of

Spar Aerospace specializes in the design and manufacture of earth stations and associated subsystems encompassing the full range of communications applications. These include the INTELSAT earth station for international communications, the DOMSAT for domestic communications, the SPARMARINE earth station with stabilized antenna for offshore applications, and the SPARCOM thin route and transportable earth station for business communications networks.

Other leading companies displaying their products at the exhibition in India include: Datagram Inc. of Boucherville, Quebec, which designs and manufactures statistical multiplexers and data communications processors; Memotec Data Inc. of Saint-Laurent, Quebec with state-of-the-art, user friendly communications products that allow companies to access X.25 public and private



Some of the MPAC protocol converters from Memotec Data Inc.



Mitel, a leading international supplier of telecommunications equipment, produces a wide range of products from the small micro-processor controlled PABX system like the Entrepreneur to the fully integrated SX-2000 communication system (shown above).



Satellites and their subsystems are designed and manufactured by Spar Aerospace Limited.

pocket switching data networks; Interdaco (Intercontinental Data Control Corp.) of Ottawa, Ontario, which develops and markets state-of-the-art voice and data transmission products; Northern Telecom Limited, the second largest designer and manufacturer of telecommunications equipment in North America and an important supplier of integrated office systems; and Mitel Corp. of Kanata, Ontario, which is an international manufacturer of telecommunications equipment, telephone switching equipment and semi-conductor devices.

Also represented in India is TSI (Telecommunications Services International) of Burnaby, British Columbia, a company that offers a complete range of professional, technical, consulting and project management skills. It provides expertise in planning, design, engineering, construction and operation of public and private networks and fully integrated systems.



## Climate improves for exports to Latin America

Canada is increasing its trade efforts in the Latin American region which includes Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean, as the region experiences what trade officials describe as a "recovery wave".

In an effort to capitalize on a growing demand for Canadian manufactured goods and technologies in Latin America and to help Canadian exporters compete for sales in those markets, the Department of External Affairs is expanding two key market development strategies — the Program for Export Market Development (PEMD) and a Trade Fairs and Missions Program.

Canadian manufacturers will be well represented over the next 15 months at trade fairs and missions planned for the Latin American region. A series of meetings and conferences is also planned with Latin American business representatives to help foster closer economic ties.

Trade officials at External Affairs say Canadian domestic exports to a number of countries in the region, especially Brazil, Colombia and Chile, climbed steadily through 1983 and show promise of continuing the

trend. Exports to Brazil were up 12.7 per cent by mid 1984 and had surpassed 1983 totals by the end of October. Sales climbed 14.1 per cent to Colombia and more than 30 per cent to Chile.

Canada's over-all export performance in South America during the first half of 1984 showed an 8.6 per cent improvement over 1983 sales for the same period. Sales in Western Europe climbed 8.2 per cent.

The composition of trade in Latin America, officials add, is highly favourable to Canadian exporters, with manufactured goods accounting for 63 per cent of sales and with a large portion of other trade activities focused on sales of advanced technologies.

The main exports include wheat, automotive parts, newsprint, coal, asbestos, fertilizers, transportation equipment, telecommunications equipment, agricultural products and a variety of industrial machinery and consulting services. Canada's largest markets in the region are Brazil, Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela and Colombia. Peru, Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago and Chile are also important trading partners.

### Some key trade fairs and missions

#### General

- Canacintra Exposition — Mexico, July 1985.
- FISA 85 — Santiago, Chile, October 30—November 10, 1985 — Mining, telecommunications, agricultural and forestry equipment services.
- EXPOCOMER 86 — Panama, March 1986 — Auto parts, medical equipment, hardware, sporting goods and food products.

#### Agriculture

- Incoming mission to Western Canada Farm Progress Show — Regina, Saskatchewan, June 19-22, 1985.
- Incoming mission to Agribition — Regina, Saskatchewan, November 30—December 6, 1985.

#### Communications

- TECHNOTRON 85 — Lima, Peru, April 15-21, 1985 — Telecommunications equipment and services.
- Telecommunications Seminar — Peru, April 1985.
- INFORMATICA 85 — São Paulo, Brazil, October 1985 — Videotex equipment and services.

More information on these events can be obtained from Paul Schutte, External Affairs South America Trade Development Division, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0G2 or the Trade Information Centre, at the same address.

#### Consumer products

- Hardware Products Mission to Havana, April 1985.

#### Forestry

- Forestry Equipment Services Solo Catalogue Show — Santiago, Chile, April 15-16, 1985.
- Incoming Mining and Forestry Buyers from Peru, June 1985.
- IX World Forestry Congress Exhibition — Mexico City, Mexico, July 1-7, 1985 — Forest harvesting equipment and services.

#### Mining

- Mining Equipment and Services Mission/Seminar to Chile, May 4-18, 1985.
- Incoming Mining and Forestry Buyers from Peru, June 1985.
- Mexican Mining Congress and Exposition — Mazatlan, Mexico, October 27-31, 1985 — Mining equipment and services.

#### Oil and Gas

- Solo Oil and Gas Equipment Show and Seminar — Mexico, February 1986.

## Support for small business

The government recently introduced legislation to continue support for small business financing under the Small Businesses Loans Act (SBLA). A five-year extension of the federal loan guarantee program from April 1, 1985, to March 31, 1990, and amendments to eligibility under the Act are proposed in the new legislation.

Making the announcement on behalf of Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion Sinclair Stevens, Minister of State for Small Business André Bissonette said that "the government recognizes the major role small business plays in our economy" and it is working to establish "a stable policy framework for lenders and borrowers using the program".

The new legislation defines a small business as one with gross revenue not exceeding \$2 million in the year of application, instead of the previous \$1.5-million limit.

In addition, the legislation increases the existing loan ceiling by \$300 million to \$1.8 billion to meet demand for the current lending period which ends March 31, 1985.

The proposed amendments to the Act also introduce other program modifications and the option to accommodate further changes that will result from future consultations or program monitoring and evaluation. New features introduced include cost-sharing measures with participating lending institutions.

The Small Businesses Loans Act underwrites losses of business improvement loans made by chartered banks and other designated lenders to small businesses. Loan funds under SBLA can be used to purchase equipment; purchase, build, or modernize business premises; and buy land for the operation of a business. The loans must be secured and repaid within ten years, and the maximum interest rate that lenders may charge is bank prime plus 1 per cent, the rate floating with the bank's prime for the term of the loans. Mr. Bissonette said the changes would not create additional costs to small businesses using the program.

Since SBLA was enacted in 1961, more than 170 000 loans totalling \$4 billion have been authorized under the Act.

Lending activity under the SBLA increased significantly from 1983 to 1984. The number of loans increased 20 per cent to 31 000 and their dollar value increased 25 per cent to about \$900 million, according to preliminary data for 1984 from authorized lenders. With this growth in program use, the \$1.5-billion lending ceiling was reached two months before the lending period expired.



## Continual motion promises more effective healing of joints

"Continuous passive motion" (CPM), a concept for healing joints conceived by orthopaedic surgeon Robert Salter of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, promises a number of immediate and long-term clinical advantages, from a reduction of post-operative pain and excessive swelling to the prevention of degenerative arthritis.

The concept has since been applied to develop CPM machines for lower limbs, elbows, shoulders and fingers, by John Saringer, the president of Toronto Medical Corp. of Scarborough, Ontario, the only company in Canada that manufactures Mobilimb machines. At present about 95 per cent of the company's sales are directed at the international market.

Dr. Salter has been actively engaged in research on CPM since 1969. After

nine years of research he found there was a strong correlation between motion and healing. Joints with surgical defects treated in the traditional way with casts and prolonged immobilization did not show any new cartilage formed after six months. In fact, the scar tissue fills the fracture in the existing cartilage, which later breaks down and leads to arthritis.



Robert Salter

Joints treated by continuous passive motion for at least one week were, however, found to have significantly fewer signs of degenerative arthritis and many of them had developed new cartilage.

Although the biochemical and cellular details of cartilage regeneration are not yet fully understood, Dr. Salter has discovered that underlying bone as well as cartilage must be affected if new cartilage is to form. According to Dr. Salter, certain embryonic-like cells located in bone appear to be capable of differentiating into bone, scar tissue, or cartilage, depending on the stimulus. And for some reason motion encourages these cells to form bone where bone should be and cartilage where cartilage should be. Lack of motion, on the other hand, only causes rampant growth of scar tissue.

### First CPM device

After nine years of research, Dr. Salter began assisting John Saringer, a research assistant at the University of Toronto's Department of Mechanical Engineering, in the construction

of a device that would provide CPM for the knee joint. The first device designed by Mr. Saringer moved the joint through one complete cycle of its natural range of motion every 45 seconds. The device was successfully used on a young girl whose knee

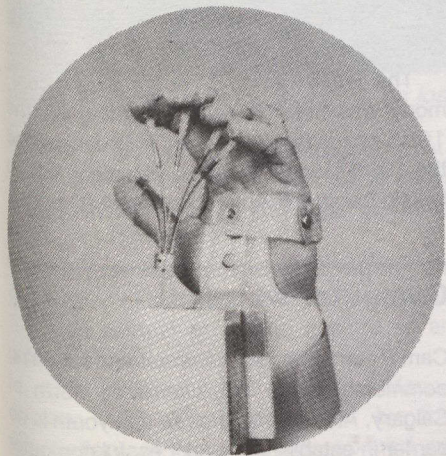


John Saringer

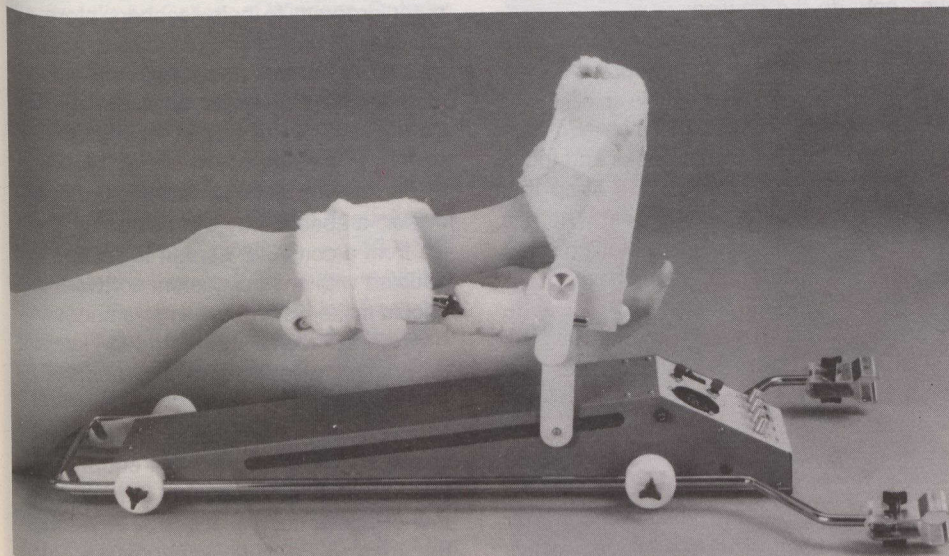
was virtually useless from an injury. The CPM machine was placed on her leg during surgery and she awoke from the anaesthetic to find her knee bending without pain. Her knee is now considered completely normal and she

is able to actively participate in all sports and activities that require the use of the knee.

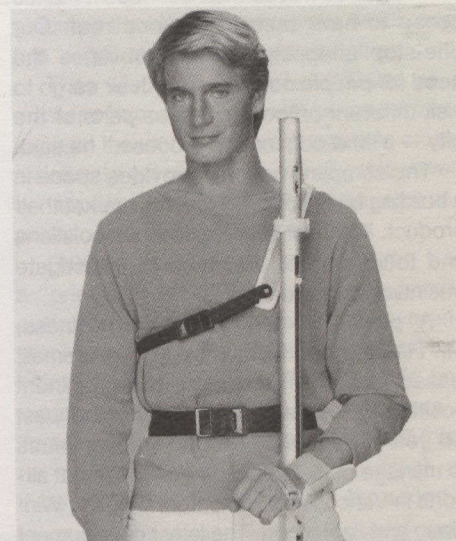
The CPM lower limb unit manufactured by Toronto Medical Corp. today, offers a complete range of motion for the knee, hip or ankle, a speed control with one to 15



The Mobilimb hand unit, a portable, battery-operated CPM device, provides articulation of the joints through a prescribed range of motion.



Continuous passive motion lower-leg machine designed by John Saringer in collaboration with Robert Salter, offers complete range of motion for knee, hip and ankle.



An upper limb CPM Mobilimb used for post-operative procedures related to the elbow.

minutes per cycle, and reverse on the load, as well as bed or chair use. A control panel incorporated into the body of the unit allows the patient to control the speed, the load control variable from 4 to 7 kilograms and the amount of extension and flexion.

The upper limb CPM Mobilimbs are light, comfortable to wear and easily adjustable to the patient's size. Powered by rechargeable batteries, they can be altered for optimum speed and range of motion for each individual patient.

All of the Mobilimbs are applied during the immediate post-operative period and continue for at least one week after operative procedures. They allow the patient to be ambulatory in the early post-operative period and to continuously maintain a good range of motion.



## "Air supermarket" expansion

International Aviation Terminals Limited of Vancouver, British Columbia, described as a "supermarket for air cargo operators" by the founder and president, Denis Heffring recently completed extensive expansion to offer their customers all the services they need in one place.

In January, the company officially opened a \$6.7-million addition of five buildings that provide 12 077 square metres for the sale and marketing of air cargo in Vancouver. An older building offers more than 18 580 square metres.

Mr. Heffring said that the office and cargo facilities are for the exclusive use of people concerned with the air cargo aspect of the business, such as freight forwarders, customs brokers, carriers and Canada Customs.

"The activities of all our tenants are inter-related, and as everyone who ships or receives goods needs their services it makes sense to have them under one roof. Our one-stop shopping concept obviates the need for people concerned with air cargo to visit different offices in various parts of the city — a time-consuming process," he said.

The company not only provides space in a building but also helps tenants market their product. It is involved with trade associations and touring other countries to investigate business opportunities.

A pioneer in the air cargo business, Mr. Heffring built his company from a small, leased facility in Edmonton to a prominent position in western Canada over the past 26 years. He has developed and continues to manage multi-use air cargo facilities at airports in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg and Saskatoon. The latest development gives his company more than 55 740 square metres of building space in Canada.

### US development

In 1984, with two US partners, Mr. Heffring formed Transplex Seattle Inc. and completed the first phase of a \$20-million (US) air cargo installation at Sea-Tac International Airport, near Seattle, to provide the same services that have made the Canadian operation so successful. The US operation consists of an air cargo building, three ancillary buildings to accommodate freight forwarders and related operators, and a paved parking area for aircraft of up to *Boeing 747* size. Phase two, scheduled to begin this year, will add two air cargo buildings, one ancillary building and more aircraft parking positions.

Mr. Heffring said the company is considering the possibility of establishing similar facilities in other locations.

## Practical baby wear

Consumer demand for custom-made infant wear and the ability of Stork Express co-owners Joy Kardish and Joanne Phillips to design and produce practical baby apparel has produced a booming business for the new company.



Paul Latour, *The Citizen*

*Jessica Phillips models the all-in-one cosy designed by her mother, that slides easily over shoes or socks.*

The personal baby gift delivery service was established in Ottawa in 1983 by the two women, who initially sewed the baby apparel, stuffed animals and crib mobiles they marketed. With new designs in 1984, the business has expanded into a mini-cottage industry with three additional seamstresses located in Ottawa and Merrickville who now do the sewing.

One of the most successful items of apparel available from Stork Express is their new design of a baby cosy. It is an all-in-one fleece-lined nylon shell that has two legs which slide over shoes or socks and tucks under armpits in front. It has a strap that goes around a car or stroller seat. There is also a cosy made with velcro-closing sides for disabled children in wheelchairs.

Other designs by Joanne Phillips include a variation on child side- and back-pack carriers. The Stork Express carriers are made of washable navy canvas with seatbelt webbing and buckles. There are both waist and shoulder bands to provide extra support for baby and parent and they are adaptable for carrying baby in front, on the hip or at the side back. The carrier also allows for both baby's weight gain and repositioning on a parent's body when muscles tire.

## Canadian cheese champions

St-Paulin cheese made by Anco Food Products Limited of Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver won two 1984 international gold medals from the Institut International pour les Sélections de la Qualité, known as the Monde Sélection.

Anco's Anfrom cheese won a second prize in the same competition.

Guy Meloche, a spokesman for the company said the competition "is like the Olympics of the food industry". In 1984, 154 dairy products from 60 countries were judged on such things as taste and texture and trade presentation.

Anco also won two gold medals for its Ingersoll cheese spread and Cherry Hill medium cheddar. Anco bought the Ontario-based Ingersoll cheese factory in 1983.

For 25 years Anco imported cheese, but five years ago began manufacturing its own line in St-Hyacinthe, Quebec, said Anco's Ottawa manger, Mike Whitmore.

The 1984 Monde Sélection award ceremony was held in Madrid. Testing for the 1985 prizes begins in April in Brussels and the 1985 Monde Sélection ceremony will be held in Lisbon in September or early October.

## Computer whiz-kid

Cam Peters, 18, from Carstairs, a ranching community some 60 kilometres north of Calgary, Alberta, has proved that youth is no barrier in establishing a successful computer software company.

His firm, Peters' Soft-Products Limited in Calgary, founded in 1983 when he was still in Grade 12, has already sold his computer program to help teachers store and tabulate student marks, to 100 schools. In addition, a Toronto company is interested in marketing the program nationally and Cam Peters expects to find at least 500 more buyers in 1985.

He has also come up with another money-maker: a special way of transferring graphics from a computer screen to paper. That, coupled with several custom software jobs, should make his firm even more successful.

Peters became interested in computer programming four years ago and he has since spent a great deal of time trying to invent useful programs. By the end of Grade 11, he was proficient enough to be hired by a Calgary company that ran a summer computer camp to teach other teenagers the intricacies of a computer keyboard. Within a short time of moving to Calgary he began his own company.



## Sailing ships as artistic entities — exhibition tours Canada



Halifax Harbour, Sunset, C. 1853, on loan from the Halifax Board of Trade.

Canada's first professional marine artist, John O'Brien, is the subject of a major historical exhibition of paintings currently touring in Canada.

It is the first exhibition to study the production of the first Canadian to establish the ship portrait or marine subject as an artistic entity in Canadian art.

*John O'Brien (1831-1891): Marine Painter*, which was organized by the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, opened on March 5, 1984 at Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. It has since been on view at Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton, New Brunswick; Art Gallery of Windsor, Ontario; Burnaby Art Gallery, British Columbia; and the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. It will open at Yarmouth County Museum, Nova Scotia on March 25, 1985.

The exhibition was organized by Patrick Condon Laurette, assistant curator of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia who documented 54 John O'Brien paintings — 40 were shown in Halifax and 28 were exhibited on tour. Funding was received from the National Museums of Canada and the paintings were borrowed from public and private collections in Canada.

### Golden age of ships

John O'Brien's portraits of nineteenth-century barques, schooners and yachts, full-sailed or battered by menacing storms, reflect the glorious period of Nova Scotian shipping. The 28 paintings in the travelling exhibition

document Halifax's sailing ships and the golden era which ended with the steamship, photography, the railway, economic recession and landscape painting.

John O'Brien was the son of Irish immigrants who first settled in Saint John, New Brunswick. His father, a hairdresser and manufacturer of ornamental hair goods, relocated his business in Halifax, Nova Scotia, shortly before his son was born.

By the time he was 20, John O'Brien became well known locally for his natural ability as a painter of marine subjects and he was recognized as a professional ship

portraitist at age 21. His remarkable gift of portrayal motivated friends and civic officials to sponsor a nine-month tutorial in London, England in 1857, under John Wilson Carmichael, a popular shipping artist.

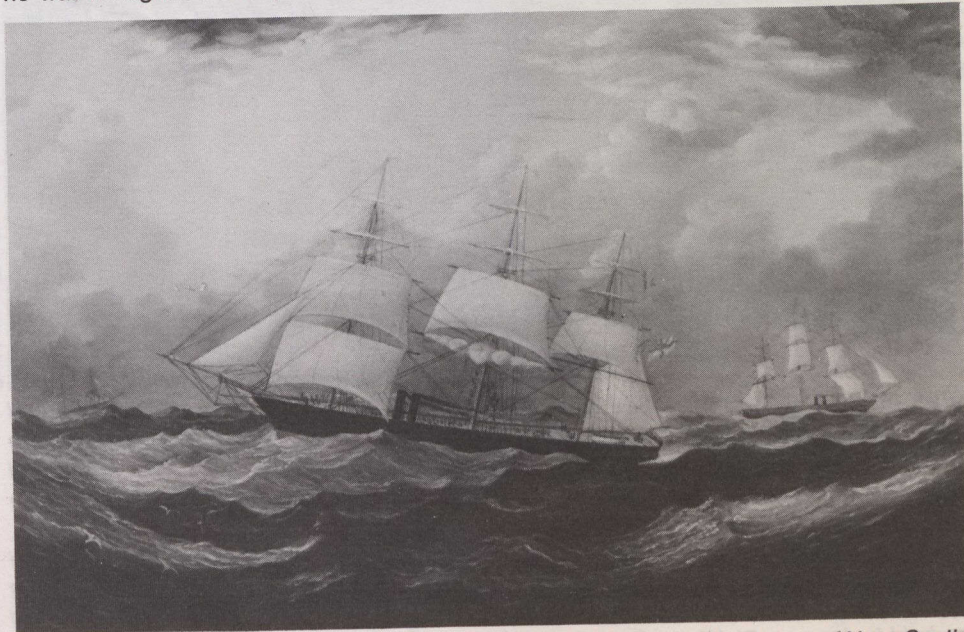
John O'Brien's situation in the 1860s and 1870s Halifax declined when marine art commissions did not follow. Photography and the colouring of such prints became the order of the day, followed by the increasingly national demand for landscape art that had developed out of railway travel facilities. As the respect for his subject, the sailing ship declined, so did John O'Brien's work as marine artist.

### Return to painting

By the 1880s, a decade of cultural vibrancy in Halifax, John O'Brien returned to painting subjects reflecting Nova Scotian shipping and naval history from the 1850s and 1860s. These paintings include Halifax Harbour scenes, standard vessel portraits and paintings of shipwrecks. They are much gloomier than the earlier works, which contain bright skies and sharp definition.

They also confirm John O'Brien as a master of his visual sources, perhaps drawing from the works of several artists to create an intimate yet panoramic painting. However, he apparently made his living as a house painter and died, unknown.

Patrick Laurette said John O'Brien was a "primitive" artist, "a person who comes out of nowhere and starts on his own and teaches himself". Because of the primitive's intensity, his works are small in scale and focus sharply on a ship as if it were a "precious object", Mr. Laurette said. "I think he had a natural affinity for his subject, as if he wanted to be part of it," he added.



Double Portrait, HMS Galatea at Sea, 1888, oil on canvas from the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.



## News briefs

**Environment Minister** Suzanne Blais-Grenier has proposed that a national symposium on wildlife conservation be held this fall. Representatives of conservation agencies, universities, wildlife-related industries and various levels of governments are expected to attend.

**Public Affairs Resource Group** of Ottawa, Ontario, which owns Public Affairs International (PAI), the largest public policy analysis company in Canada, has purchased Washington-based Government Research Corp. (GRC), the largest public policy consulting company in the US. Under the deal, Public Affairs Resource Group will own 75 per cent of GRC, with the remainder held by employees and others. Sean Moore, who will be vice-president of GRC, said the deal "vastly improves the ability of PAI and GRC to serve Canadian corporate clients as regards the US".

**Showcanada** of L.M. Media Marketing Services Limited in Toronto, is being established to provide promotional attractions

to trade and consumer exhibitions and to corporate exhibitors. The unit will have exclusive rights to a US line of promotional robots, which can be custom designed for clients. The wireless robots are remote controlled by an operator who manipulates their movements and provides voice response in conversations. Applications to date include Expo Ernie, created for the 1986 World's Fair in Vancouver.

**Fururtek Communications Inc.** of Calgary, Alberta expanded its operations into the US under a recent agreement to purchase all issued and outstanding shares of Bay Area Telco Inc. in exchange for 550 000 new common shares of Fururtek. Bay Area Telco is a long distance re-sale telecommunications firm operating in nine San Francisco area counties.

**Micray Electronics of Calgary, Alberta** has recently introduced a new software package, Mega Math, which has a library of more than 40 assembly-language subroutines for fast numeric calculations on the IBM PC family and IBM-compatibles. Functions in the package include matrix multiplication and

transposition, Fast Fourier Transforms, convolution, solution of linear equations, and vector, scalar and transcendental operations. The subroutines can link to Microsoft Fortran, IBM Fortran 2.0, IBM Professional Fortran, C and Pascal compilers.

**The Export Development Corporation** (EDC) has announced the signing of three allocations totalling \$24.3 million (US) under a line of credit agreement to support the installation of a water distribution piping network and the construction of water storage facilities by Collavino Incorporated, Windsor, Ontario to the Republic of Cameroon. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will provide \$13.3 million (Cdn) in support of the project.

**Wayne Gretzky** celebrated his twenty-fourth birthday by establishing a new National Hockey League (NHL) record. He scored three goals in a game for the thirty-third time in his six-year NHL career, ending a tie with Mike Bossy and Phil Esposito to take sole possession of the NHL record for three-goal games. Gretzky's first goal in his three-goal performance in Edmonton Oilers' 6-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins was his fiftieth of the season, making him the only player to score 50 goals in 50 games or less from the start of a season three times. He scored 50 in 39 games in 1981-82 and had 50 in 42 games last season.

**Gaetan Boucher**, the Olympic 1 000-metre champion from St-Hubert, Quebec came within .17 seconds of setting a world record in his specialty at an international speed-skating meet at Davos, Switzerland. He was timed in 1 minute 12.74 seconds for a Canadian record and the best time on the Davos natural rink. Boucher also won the 500 metres in 37.22 and the four-sprint competition with 149.650 points. Denis Gagnon of Ste-Foy, Quebec finished fourth over all while Guy Thibault of Quebec City was tenth and Daniel Turcotte of Montreal was thirteenth. In the women's division Shelly Rhead, of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, finished third over all, and Anne Girard of Montreal, placed fourth.

## Manotick mill still grinds grain to grist



Paul Latour, The Citizen

While not the highly-successful money-making company that it once was, the grist mill in Manotick, Ontario is still in operation producing flour after 125 years. Patricia Shotton of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority that bought the mill in 1972, restored it and opened it for tours in 1975, holds a bag of flour recently made at the mill. Opened on February 11, 1860 by shipping magnet Moss Kent Dickinson and Joseph Merrill Currier, the mill was designed by Ottawa architect Thomas Langrell. The Georgian-style building with plastered walls and hand-carved woodwork, is considered by many as the finest example of grist-mill architecture in Ontario. Celebrations for the mill's anniversary will be held in June on Dickinson Day, the village's annual heritage festival.

Canada Weekly is published by the Cultural and Public Information Bureau, 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, Carole Stelmack.

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.

# Canada

ISSN 0384-2312