

# Canada Weekly

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- Petro-Canada opens first eastern Canadian gas stations, 1
- Federal-Saskatchewan energy pact, 2
- Defence minister visits Europe, 3
- New northern land policy, 3
- Computers used to improve potato breeding, 4
- Lending productivity a hand, 4
- Playground for disabled children, 4
- Fish exports for Nigeria, 5
- Youth look at North-South issues, 5
- Mine safety methods assessed, 5
- Canada plans for Expo '82, 5
- Oilseed crops introduced in Egypt, 6
- Satellite technology funded, 6
- Computer controlled heating, 6
- News of the arts — exhibit, 7
- Future embassy of granite, 8
- News briefs, 8

## Petro-Canada opens first eastern Canadian gas stations

The first Petro-Canada gas stations in eastern Canada were opened October 26 as part of the federal government's plan to open a string of gasoline retail outlets across Canada.

Petrocan signs were officially unveiled at three stations in Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. These signs will soon be appearing above more than 1,000 gas stations in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes.

Petro-Canada, the federally-owned oil company acquired these stations and more when it bought control of Petrofina Canada Incorporated of Montreal from its Belgian-based parent company for \$1.46 billion last February (see *Canada Weekly* dated February 25, 1981). The job of converting the former Petrofina gas stations to Petrocan outlets should be completed by August 1982. Until now all of Petrocan's gas stations have been located in western Canada.

Petrofina gasoline sales have risen 5 per cent since the outlets were bought by Petro-Canada and eastern Canadian consumers have begun to apply for Petro-

can credit cards at a rate of 1,600 applications each month.

Petro-Canada also found that gasoline sales rose dramatically when it bought a chain of gas stations in western Canada. In the fall of 1978, the Crown corporation acquired Pacific Petroleum Limited. In October 1980, the Petro-Canada brand appeared for the first time in retail, wholesale and consumer markets using a new logo. The introduction of the new identity began with the installation of new signs and the launching of an advertising campaign to alert the public to the change.

### Other activities

In addition to its retail activities the federally-owned oil and gas corporation has been involved in frontier oil and gas exploration, as well as exploration activities in the conventional producing areas of western Canada.

The company's exploration budget for 1981 is \$375 million with \$240 million destined for the frontiers and \$135 million for western Canada.



Energy Minister Marc Lalonde (wearing hat) fills up first tank at the official opening of a Petro-Canada gas station in Montreal.



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Nov 18/81



Petro-Canada, in its five years of existence, has participated in 72 of 130 frontier wells drilled between 1976 and 1980. It has spent \$330 million in the frontiers during those five years — almost 60 per cent of its total exploratory expenditure. By comparison, industry as a whole spent some 19 per cent of its exploration funds on work in this area.

#### East coast drilling

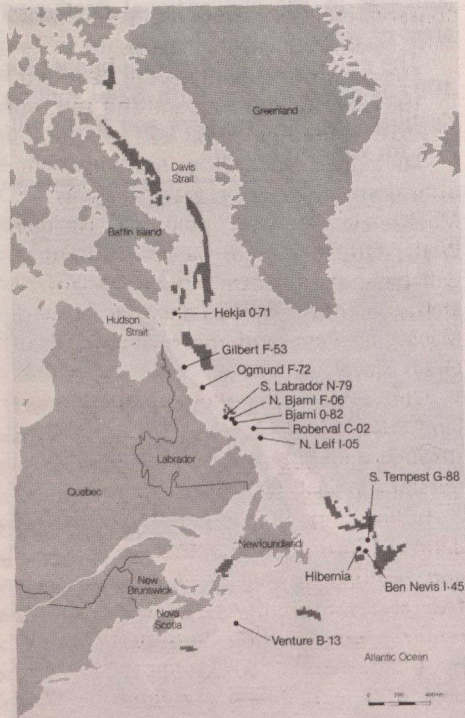
The corporation has particularly emphasized east coast exploration, while Dome Petroleum Limited and other companies have been active in the Beaufort Sea, and Panarctic Oils Limited in the Arctic Islands.

During the past five years, Petro-Canada's east coast investment has reached \$229 million or 39 per cent of its Canadian exploration off the east coast.

"We...believed that having the capability of handling major offshore drilling projects ourselves would help us meet some of our other objectives such as promoting Canadian technology and capturing the spinoff from frontier activities for Canadian industry," said Andrew Janisch Petro-Canada's president.

He said that the corporation is well on its way to that objective and has assembled a first-rate Canadian team of experienced offshore drilling personnel.

"We successfully conducted a three-rig



Areas off the east coast signify Petro-Canada involvement in off-shore exploration. Dots mark drilling locations.



Three Petro-Canada signs including this one in Halifax were unveiled.

drilling program in 1980," he said. "The objective here is to ensure, in the midst of a tight world market, that we have both the equipment and skilled personnel available to Canada in the years to come". Petro-Canada is participating in the construction of two semi-submersible drilling rigs designed for east coast conditions, the first of which is scheduled to be operating in the 1983 drilling season.

#### Arctic exploration

The corporation has also provided nearly 80 per cent of the financing for the exploration program of Panarctic Oils in recent years in the high Arctic and in combination with industry, helped promote the formation of the Arctic Islands Exploration Group which has made significant discoveries in the North.

Petro-Canada also has a major stake in the exploration and production activities in western Canada. The corporation is also involved in operations in the Peace River Arch oil play, in the Cactus Lake heavy oil area in Saskatchewan, in the West Pembina oil play and in the Deep Basin oil and gas plays. Petro-Canada is also helping to develop gas in northeastern British Columbia and in the foothills.

The corporation is participating in international offshore exploration programs in Norway, Spain and China. A criterion for Petro-Canada's international participation is that the operation must be on commercial terms. Another element

of the corporation's international activities has been technological exchanges with other state-controlled oil companies.

The most significant of these have been: a project with Venezuela in the development of improved technology for heavy oil recovery; a program with Norway for upgrading techniques with geophysical processing capabilities; a technology exchange with ARPEL, the Association for Latin American national oil companies; and an environmental research project with PEMEX in Mexico.

#### Federal-Saskatchewan energy pact

The federal and Saskatchewan governments have signed an energy agreement that revamps royalty and taxation measures and helps clear the way for construction of a heavy-oil processing plant in the province.

The \$15.4-billion agreement was described as a major boost to the petroleum industry in Saskatchewan and an important step towards the goal of reducing Canadian exports of expensive foreign oil to zero by 1990. The federal government also recently concluded two other separate agreements with the oil producing provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

The agreement, which expires at the end of 1986 is expected to generate about \$6.1 billion in revenues for the industry, \$5.8 billion for Saskatchewan and \$3.5 billion for the federal government.

#### Provides incentives

It also lowers significantly Saskatchewan's royalty take, offers new provincially financed incentives for exploration and development and a temporary reduction in a new federal tax on petroleum revenues for heavy-oil upgrading projects.

In particular, both sides agreed to encourage construction of a commercial upgrading plant in the province for heavy oil, a project now being proposed by a five-member consortium which includes Petro-Canada, the national oil company and Saskoil, a provincial Crown corporation.

Saskatchewan will refrain from imposing royalties on such projects while the federal government has agreed the petroleum revenue tax will be reduced to 10.67 per cent from 16 per cent until the plant begins making money.

Wamboldt-Waterfield



## Defence minister visits Europe

Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne recently made an eight-nation tour of Europe to meet with military leaders and honour Canadian servicemen buried in Europe.

The minister visited Portugal and Turkey, for meetings with defence officials, toured Canadian forces units in Cyprus, visited the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) at Casteau, Belgium, and headed a Canadian pilgrimage honouring Canadian servicemen to four European countries.

In Portugal and Turkey, Mr. Lamontagne met with Defence Minister Luiz Azevedo Coutinho in Lisbon and President Kenan Evren and Defence Minister Umut Haluk Gayulken in Ankara for briefings on defence-related matters. The defence minister also visited Canadian troops on peacekeeping duty in Cyprus. The "Vandoos" are in the process of replacing the Canadian Airborne Regiment for what will be Canada's thirty-sixth consecutive tour of United Nations duty on the Mediterranean island. He later visited Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe to address the SHAPE Officers' Association. SHAPE celebrated its thirtieth anniversary earlier this year.

The minister then proceeded from Brussels to Rome where he attended a memorial service conducted in memory of Canadians who died during the Second World War. The ceremony held at the Victor Emmanuel Memorial was followed by a commemorative service at the Moro



*Mr. Lamontagne views grave of Canadian soldier in Ortona, Italy.*

River Canadian War Cemetery where 1,375 Canadian soldiers are buried.

### Visited Poland

The Canadian party also travelled to Poland for a three-day visit which included ceremonies held at the symbolic grave of Canadian airmen, a memorial maintained in the heart of Warsaw, and at the Tomb of the Unknown Polish Soldier.

In addition, the delegation held a service at the Old Garrison Cemetery in Poznan. The Canadian airmen buried at Poznan either died in enemy prisoner-of-war camps or were shot down during the summer of 1944 as they attempted to fly

in supplies in support of the Polish Home Army.

The Canadian delegation also visited Prague where a service was held at the Military Cemetery in memory of Canadian soldiers who died in enemy camps in Czechoslovakia. The delegation held a similar service at the Belgrade War Cemetery in the Yugoslav capital. Mr. Lamontagne presented Yugoslav officials with a framed picture of the headstone marking the grave of Major William Jones in Wellandport, Ontario.

Major Jones was parachuted into Yugoslavia in 1943 and became a hero of the partisans. After he died in 1969, the Yugoslav government shipped a special headstone to Canada for use on his grave. Mr. Lamontagne and the delegation also met with leaders of the veteran's groups in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

## New northern land policy

The federal government has approved a new policy on northern land use planning, which will help to improve management of land resources in the North.

The policy, to be established by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, will also help resolve conflicting interests of the resource users — native people, developers, conservationists and others in the North-west Territories and the Yukon.

The government will devote \$2 million in 1981-82 to the program and this will rise to \$4 million in 1983-84.

The program will focus immediate attention on priority areas such as the MacKenzie Valley, including Norman Wells. Other areas to be given attention will be that of North Yukon/MacKenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea, Lancaster Sound, MacMillan Pass, and the region south of Great Slave Lake.

Under the new policy, comprehensive land use planning will be conducted through federal land use planning commissions in each territory.

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munro stressed that while land and resource management is primarily a federal responsibility, land use planning requires co-operation and participation by the territorial governments as members of the planning commissions. The planning process will bring together the resource users and the resource managers so as to allow sound planning, minimize conflicts and provide a basis for orderly development, he said.



*Turkish President, General Kenan Evren (left) meets with Mr. Lamontagne.*



## Computers used to improve potato breeding

Agriculture Canada scientists are using computers in a continuing program to produce improved potato varieties.

"Because of the vast amounts of information we collect in our potato breeding program, we need a fast system for analyzing and retrieving data," explained Don Young, program leader for the potato breeding program at Agriculture Canada's Fredericton, New Brunswick research station.

This led Dr. Young to turn to the computer for assistance. Since 1968, he, along with his colleagues at the station and at Agriculture Canada's Engineering and Statistical Research Institute in Ottawa, have developed a comprehensive computer program.

The program provides a printout on any potato strain, or line, in the form of a fieldbook. Included in the information are 83 different characteristics, ranging from yields, top vigour, maturity, and the ease of mechanical digging, to the specific qualities of the potato when it comes to processing.

Information on the disease resistance

of different strains is also included. This covers late blight, common scab, blackleg, wilt, leaf roll and other viruses.

Another part of the federal program is an inventory that keeps track of all types of seed currently in stock at the station. "This permits the breeder to confirm that the seed of the particular parent he wishes to use is available," said Dr. Young.

### Forty traits possible

With the computer, it is possible to design a potato breeding program more effectively. A researcher can list up to 40 desirable qualities he wishes in his parent strains.

"When you realize it takes up to 15 years to develop a new variety after the original cross has been made, it is evident that keeping manual records is impossible," said Dr. Young.

Also, the scientists have more than 60,000 seedling lines to choose from. "With the computer, we can develop better varieties for the potato industry in less time," said Dr. Young.

## Lending productivity a hand

Several Ottawa companies have banded together to form a consortium that will help increase Canadian productivity

The CAD/CAM Centre, as the consortium is called, is intended to boost productivity in Canadian businesses — from architects to clothing manufacturers — on the idea of boosting productivity through computer-aided design (CAD) and manufacturing (CAM).

The centre will be involved in consulting services, training and research and sales of Canadian-made computer equipment. The centre is the idea of scientist Woodie Carroll, president and founder of CAD/CAM Graphics Systems.

Along with Carroll's firm, which specializes in computer-aided design services, four other small Ottawa companies have already joined the consortium: Phoenix Automation, CAD-TECH, Poyton Vector and Innovation Technologies. Together they employ about 100 people, many of whom will be involved in the centre's work. The firms will all continue to operate separately but will share joint ownership of the CAD/CAM Centre.

## Playground for disabled children

An Ottawa school for disabled children has had a playground built, geared to the special needs of these children.

The playground was built by mentally and physically disabled adults for the John Butler School, which teaches communications and self-sufficiency to 32 severely mentally and handicapped children. It is the brainchild of Joe Silverman of the Young Adult Training Centre in Ottawa and Larry Arpaia, supervisor of the school.

The playground has gentle slopes for scooters, hills for rolling — a skill which develops flexibility — steps at different heights so children can practise co-ordination and swinging hammocks.

There is also a wide slide that allows space for a teacher to accompany a child, sandboxes high enough for children who are in wheel chairs or who are propped up against standing boards, and a mixture of sand, grass, wood and asphalt textures for children who are blind or deaf. The playground is also open to any child in the neighbourhood.

The 1,000 pieces of the playground were each measured, cut, sanded and varnished by about ten adults indoors during

the winter. "I had to teach them how to work together: how to read the diagrams and model, how to measure, how to use the power tools, how to sand and file, and how to assemble the pieces," said Mr. Silverman.

"The structure is proof that handicapped people can build playgrounds. If given the opportunity, they can build additions to homes, cottages, whole houses and then, perhaps, even cities," said Mr. Arpaia.



The playground at the John Butler School was built by disabled adults.



## Fish exports for Nigeria

The federal government and the Fisheries Association of Newfoundland will work together to develop an export market strategy for Newfoundland mackerel in Nigeria.

A federal report, prepared earlier, indicated a substantial and growing market available for mackerel in Nigeria. The analysis also showed that it would be essential to consolidate shipments and sales of Newfoundland mackerel through a common organization in order to achieve the volumes necessary for a viable enterprise.

The Fisheries Association has been offered \$750,000 to act as the coordinator and to handle the necessary product assembly and shipping arrangements with the co-operation of the Association of Independent Producers of Newfoundland. The Fisheries Association will also act as the selling agent, using a common packaging for the product.

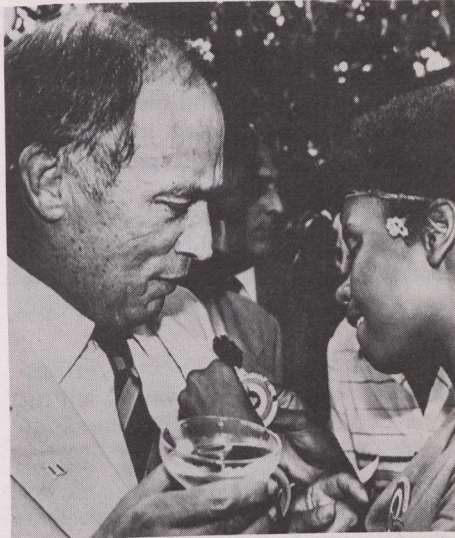
Mackerel is a popular fish in Nigeria, and there is a preference there for the Canadian product because of its larger size. It is anticipated that by 1986 the market could grow to be worth \$50 million to Canada. Fisheries experts estimate a potential annual catch of 120,000 tonnes in North American waters.

## Youth look at North-South issues

Young people from 50 countries gathered in Montreal this summer to discuss world problems.

The North-South Youth Assembly was held in the Canadian city at the initiative of Jack Hébert, president of Canada World Youth. The week-long conference ended with the adoption of 85 recommendations which touched on a number of areas: resources — renewable, non-renewable and marine, as well as, nuclear energy — emergency food aid, ways of offsetting water shortages, food hygiene, employment in both industrialized and non-industrialized countries, and the impact of technology. The final report of the assembly was later presented to United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim in New York.

Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau attended the closing session of the conference along with Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan, Communications Minister Francis Fox, New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield,



*Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau receives a pin from a girl at the conference.*

Quebec's Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Claude Morin, Cardinal Paul-Emile Léger, and Malaysian Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports Datuk Mokhtar Hashim.

In a speech to the delegates, Mr. Trudeau paid tribute to the young delegates who he said were determined to implement changes in the world situation.

The delegates voted to make the assembly an annual event and elected a board of directors chaired by Njoroge Karanja of Kenya, with Michael Hope-Simpson of Canada as vice-chairman. The six other board members represent Colombia, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Britain.

## Mine safety methods assessed

The federal government has begun a cooperative research program to improve mine safety in Ontario, Minister of State for Mines Judy Erola told a recent meeting of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy held in Sudbury, Ontario.

The program, initiated by the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET), is working in cooperation with the Ontario Department of Labour, Denison Mines Limited and Rio Algom Limited, to test and evaluate conventional methods, and work to develop new methods, for detecting fractures and unstable conditions in mine roofs. Mine-roof collapse is one of the most serious hazards in underground mining.

In one of its first projects, the program will test and evaluate a system for detecting mine-roof fractures recently devel-

oped at CANMET's Elliot Lake Laboratory. The system has the potential to locate unstable areas in mine roofs more accurately than existing methods. CANMET is a research organization within the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The CANMET system detects tiny variations in the ability of mine-roof rock to transmit air. In this way, fractures in the rock can be located, and the unstable area can be either supported or blasted down.

The system involves drilling two holes into the mine roof several metres apart. A seal is installed in one hole at any pre-selected depth, and a vacuum is created in the hole. The hole's ability to maintain the vacuum is a measure of the rocks permeability to the flow of air. If the vacuum is lost quickly, a fracture is indicated. A pressure gauge on the second hole will detect any fractures that are continuous between the two holes.

Underground tests show that fractures from one-half to one-millimetre wide, located at depths up to eight metres in the mine roof, can be detected with a high degree of accuracy.

## Canada plans for Expo '82

Canada will participate in the 1982 World Exposition on Energy to be held in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The exposition, expected to attract 11 million visitors, will be held between May 1 and October 13, 1982. Energy Expo '82 has been registered by the International Bureau of Expositions (BIE) in Paris, and is the first exposition to be held on the theme of energy. Canada has been active as a host and participant in BIE registered events: Montreal's Expo '67, Expo '70 Osaka and the planned 1986 World Exposition TRANSPORT '86 to be held in Vancouver.

Canada will join at least fifteen other countries in Knoxville in exhibiting its energy expertise. The nature of the Canadian exhibition will be determined by the federal government in consultation with the provinces, and public and private energy companies.

Canada's participation at Energy Expo '82 will be co-ordinated by the Department of External Affairs and is being jointly sponsored by the Ministry of State for Economic Development and Departments of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Energy, Mines and Resources. The project's estimated cost is \$3.5 million.



## Oilseed crops introduced in Egypt

Canadian canola varieties are being test grown on plots of land carved from the Egyptian desert.

Under a three-year international aid project, sponsored by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), rapeseed, including canola varieties, has been introduced in Egypt to help Egyptian researchers increase edible oil production in that country.

Dr. Keith Downey, project consultant and assistant director of Agriculture Canada's Saskatoon, Saskatchewan research station, said Canadian varieties were first planted last year on test plots near Cairo, on reclaimed desert south of Alexandria, and in the Nile Delta region about 240 kilometres northeast of Cairo.

### Rapeseed new

"Egyptians have long produced oil from native crops such as sesame, safflower and cotton, but rapeseed is new to them," said Dr. Downey. "We're trying to find out whether rapeseed can grow there and how competitive it can be," he added.

Low erucic-acid and sulphur-compound levels make canola varieties more desir-

able than other types of rapeseed for both nutritional and industrial purposes. However, both canola and older rapeseed varieties are being tested in Egypt to determine which plant types are best suited to local conditions.

Dr. Downey said Middle Eastern growing conditions are vastly different from those of northern Alberta and Saskatchewan, where most of the Canadian crop is grown.

"Rapeseed is a summer crop in Canada, but in Egypt it's grown during the winter because of the mild Mediterranean climate," he explained.

The reclaimed desert and delta regions are fertile but there are problems with high calcium carbonate levels in the desert and salinity in the delta.

"Establishing new crops is always difficult, but we know a market exists for the oil, since Canadian and Swedish canola oil has previously sold well in Egypt," said Dr. Downey.

A current challenge is to find a suitable crushing outlet for the initial small quantity of seed. Egyptian researchers hope to have several thousand acres of rapeseed under cultivation soon after the initial test project ends this December.

## Satellite technology funded

The federal government will provide Canada's satellite communications industry with \$8-million over the next two years.

The money will go to Canadian companies for the design, development and manufacture of components and subsystems associated with future technological advances in the field, Communications Minister Francis Fox announced.

Ottawa has already invested \$8 million in the program during the past four years.

Mr. Fox said the funding has helped increase Canadian content in the manufacture of earth stations and satellites. For example, the Canadian content in Telesat's satellites has increased to 50 per cent from 13 per cent in the past ten years.

The minister also said it has generated more than \$9.5 million in sales by organizations such as Telesat Canada of Ottawa, which owns and operates the country's four communications satellites, and Teleglobe Canada of Montreal, which is responsible for overseas telecommunications, and telecommunications carriers.

A further \$45 million in sales is expected in the next four years, he added.

## Computer controlled heating

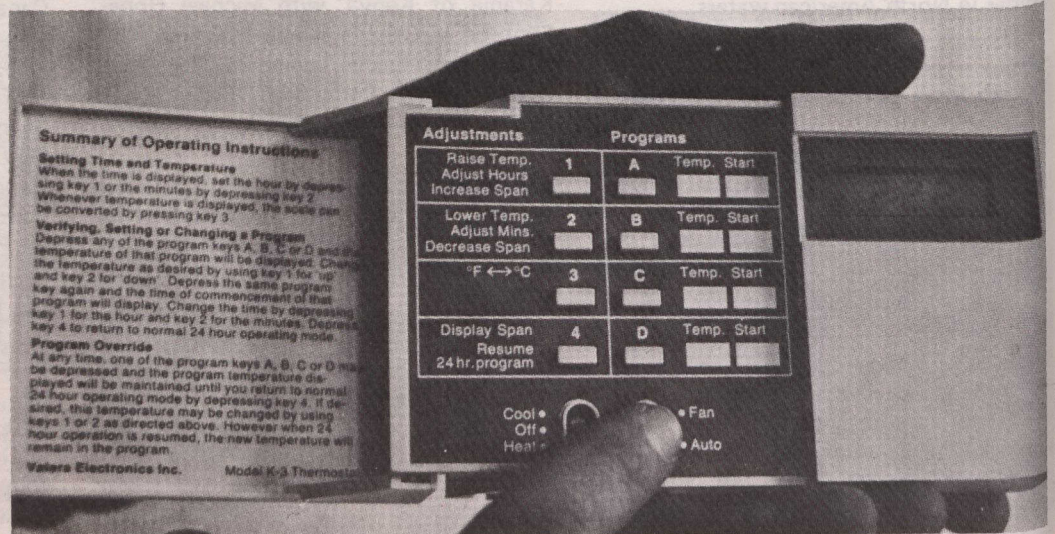
An Ottawa company is producing a computer-controlled thermostat that can help to lower heating bills.

The firm, Valera Electronics Incorporated, developed the thermostat in conjunction with the National Research Council of Canada. The company expects to produce more than 100,000 units this year.

About the size of a pocket calculator, the new device is designed to replace a conventional home thermostat with a "thinking" temperature controller programmed by the homeowner himself.

Once a series of time and temperature settings is registered on its simple eight-button keyboard, the small computer takes command of the furnace or central air conditioner and raises or lowers the home temperature accordingly...down to 16 degrees Celsius at bedtime, for instance, up to 20 degrees Celsius in the morning, and so on. As many as four temperature changes a day are possible.

The solid-state device also gives an alternating readout of time and temperature, serving as an accurate thermometer and digital clock. A remote temperature sensor, unaffected by local temperature swings from drafts or opening outside doors, can also be installed some distance from the main control unit. The unit uses little power and has no moving parts, unlike some electro-mechanical models on the market. Over-all, the unit has many features not offered by existing programmable thermostats, and its cost (the manufacturer's suggested retail price is around \$140) is substantially lower than many of its competitors. Assuming an annual fuel saving of 10-15 per cent, the device should pay for itself within two years. (Excerpts from an article by Wally Cherwinski in Science Dimension, 1981/3.)



The computer thermostat is programmed on a simple eight-button keyboard. Manual override keys allow the homeowner to bypass the automatic settings temporarily. Digital readings of time and temperature, alternating at four second intervals, appear in the small window (upper right).



## Retrospective marks artist's one-hundredth birthday

The Edmonton Art Gallery is presenting a major retrospective of the works of F.H. Varley, one of Canada's renowned Group of Seven artists.

The exhibition, *F.H. Varley, A Centennial Exhibition*, comprises about 175 paintings and sketches by the artist. The retrospective was organized by Christopher Varley, grandson of the painter and head curator of Canadian art at the Edmonton Art Gallery, to celebrate the



F.H. Varley in his Unionville, Ontario studio in 1963.

one-hundredth anniversary of the artists' birthday.

### War artist

F.H. Varley was born in Sheffield, England in 1881. He arrived in Canada in 1912 and began an illustrious career. In 1918 Varley returned to Europe to paint as a war artist for the Canadian War Records Office and in May 1920 displayed with the first art exhibition of the Group of Seven. Over the years he travelled from the east to west coasts of Canada painting, teaching and exhibiting his work. In 1964, he was awarded the Canada Council medal and in 1969 he died at the age of 88.

The exhibition, which is the first Varley retrospective to be mounted in Canada provides the opportunity to study this artist's work closely.

What distinguishes Varley's work is the vitality with which he kept the English romantic tradition alive. His portraits and landscapes of the 1920s and mid-1940s are considered by some to be among the best art produced in Canada.

Dozens of drawings, watercolours and small oil sketches make up the bulk of the exhibition — evidence of Varley's frequently high achievements with these intimate media. His pencil was a tool of



Vera, one of Varley's most popular portraits was done in 1930 and sports the artist's thumb print on the lower right hand corner.

discovery with which to speculate and ponder. He was a rigorous and probing draughtsman, who sought out the "mood" of his subjects.

### Portraiture celebrated

Included in the comprehensive showing are many of Varley's famous portraits which were painted during the years he was associated with the Group of Seven: *Self-Portrait* (1919), the portrait of Vincent Massey (1920), *Vera* (1930), as well as the portrait of Margaret Fairley (1921), a study of the painter Barker Fairley's wife.

Varley was equally well known for his expressive landscapes painted during the years that he lived in British Columbia. *View from My Studio Window* (1928-1929) was painted looking out towards the harbour in Vancouver. In many of the works from this period the mountains of Lynn Valley appear, such as *Blue Ridge, Upper Lynn Valley* (1931) and *Lynn Peak and Cedar* (1934).

The exhibition also offers a private view of the artist and is accompanied by photographs, farewells from students and friends, and a selection of the artist's letters.

After closing in Edmonton on December 6, the retrospective will travel to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria; the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal; and the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.



Stormy Weather, Georgian Bay, oil on canvas, 1920.



## Future embassy of granite

Canada's new embassy in Saudi Arabia will be built out of granite to help shield its occupants from the oppressive desert heat.

The granite stone with its almost impenetrable qualities was chosen to help keep the new embassy cool through summertime temperatures in excess of 49 degrees Celsius.

The embassy, which will be located on the outskirts of Riyadh, is being designed through a joint-venture Canadian firm, Sankey Consultants Limited/Project Planning Associates.

The embassy will contain diplomatic offices, an ambassador's residence, service wing for electrical and mechanical equipment, and recreational facilities, including a swimming pool and tennis courts.

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## News briefs

**Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan** has announced that this year's Agricultural Outlook Conference will be held in Ottawa, December 7-8. The conference brings together heads of the federal and provincial departments of agriculture, and representatives from farm organizations, universities, consumer groups, agribusiness and other government departments to discuss agricultural prospects for the coming year. Speakers will discuss general economic trends, the world agricultural and food outlook and Canadian agricultural and food market prospects in 1982.

**The Alberta government** is putting a further \$200 million of its Heritage Savings Trust Fund towards subsidizing the cost of housing. The money will increase the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation budget this year to \$1.186 billion and make the government responsible for two-thirds of Alberta housing starts. The corporation's purchase program provides monthly payment subsidies, based on income for a limited time after purchase of a home.

**The Royal Bank** has reported the formation of a new subsidiary called Royal Bank Export Finance Company Limited. The company will provide small- and medium-sized exporters with another financial option to help improve cash flow and attract foreign buyers.

**A recent symposium** on coastal environments, held at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia attracted more than 150 marine

Lloyd Sankey, partner in charge of the project, said the new embassy represents "contemporary Canadian architecture designed with Islamic traditions in mind".

The two-storey structure will feature strong, clean horizontal lines and planes in reinforced concrete. The embassy's offices surround an open inner court which Sankey said not only provides for better security but also doubles as a sun screen "and creates an architectural link with Islamic culture".

One of the major engineering problems confronted by the architects designing the complex is dealing with the extreme day-night temperature changes.

Sankey said the temperature can vary by as much as 20 degrees Celsius over a 24-hour period, creating extreme expansion and contraction stresses on buildings.

specialists from around the world to discuss the importance and effect of "muddy" coastal waters. Canada's Bay of Fundy, the Wadden Sea region of northern Europe and the Severn Estuary on Britain's west coast are examples of water environments where suspended sediment plays a role. Other highly turbid water areas of Asia, South America, the United States and continental Europe were also discussed in the more than 30 talks and 50 papers presented during the three-day meeting.

**Dome Petroleum Limited** of Calgary has signed a 20-year agreement to sell 2.6-million metric tons a year of liquefied natural gas to four Japanese utility companies for an undisclosed price. The agreement with NIC Resources Incorporated, a subsidiary of Nissho-Iwai Corporation of Japan, is subject to regulatory approvals. The agreement will require the construction of a plant on the West Coast to liquefy the natural gas, as well as four tankers and other installations.

**The British Columbia** government has signed an agreement with the federal government regarding oil and gas pricing and related fiscal matters. "Several energy projects are in nascent stages. These will make an important contribution to Canada's goal of energy security. In order to assure this goal is reached, close inter-governmental co-operation will be required. This agreement forms a solid base for this co-operation," said federal Energy Minister Marc Lalonde in announcing the agreement.

**The federal government** has renewed

programs aimed at improving the skills of workers in two provinces. The adult occupational training programs in the Northwest Territories and Quebec have been extended for one year. Under the extensions, the federal government will contribute about \$2 million towards institutional training courses in the Northwest Territories and \$133 million to Quebec for similar courses.

**Bombardier Incorporated** of Montreal will supply 26 articulated light rail vehicles (trams) to the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Portland, Oregon. The order is worth about \$25 million. It is the first competitive award won by Bombardier for such vehicles in the United States.

**Agriculture Canada** will provide up to \$599,850 for a three-year, \$1.27-million project to develop canola. The project will focus on developmental research to increase canola production and improve the quality of the crop to meet the requirements of both export and domestic markets. Research will be carried out under the direction of oilseed plant breeders at the universities of Alberta and Manitoba and at Agriculture Canada's Saskatoon Research Station.

**The Graham Poulter Group** of Britain has awarded a three-year contract to Hemton Corporation of Ottawa for the supply of specialized Telidon display and image creation terminals. The British company, an advertising and communications agency, will buy at least \$500,000 worth of equipment and services from Hemton in the first year of the contract. The Telidon equipment will be used for internal business information display systems in major corporations, point of purchase displays for retailers and numerous advertising and audio-visual applications.

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# Canada

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