

# Canada Weekly

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 External Affairs Canada    Affaires extérieures Canada

## Noma lights bright during Yuletide season

When Canadians light up their Christmas trees during the Yuletide season, it is highly possible that the lights will have been made by the country's largest manufacturer of Christmas lighting sets, Noma Industries Limited of Scarborough, Ontario.



The company, which manufactures a variety of Christmas lights and decorations, not only meets the seasonal demand for its products in Canada but also produces enough for export to the US and Europe.

### Variety of decorations

For several weeks before Christmas, the Noma Industries produce strings of coloured lights, varied with "twinklites" and floodlights, life-size Santas, wreaths, lanterns and candeliers, for indoors and outdoors, as well as fire-retardant Christmas trees.

At one company plant, miles of coloured cables are processed into the various products while highly automated machines steadily digest thin green wire and turn out carefully measured "strings" complete with light bulb sockets.

According to the company's manager of Corporate Programs, G.F. Carter, Noma is

the only company in Canada which has an integrated manufacturing process. They begin with copper which is processed into insulated electrical wire and then, by an automated process, they mold the lighting sockets to the wire to produce lighting strings to which the light bulbs are added. The finished lighting set is then packaged and distributed through department stores, hardware chains and other retailers.

### Diversified production

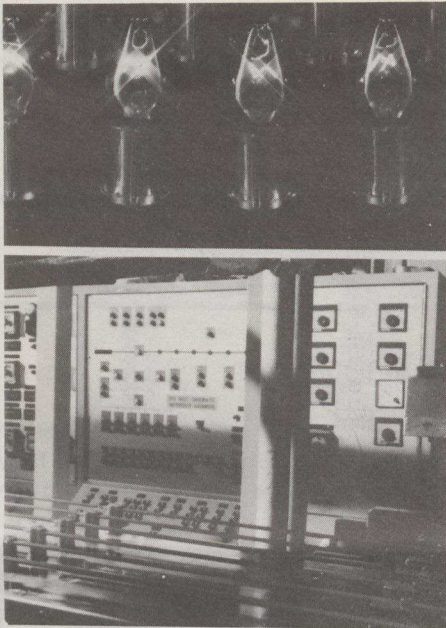
When the Christmas lights are turned off, however, there is no slowdown of activity in the company, as Christmas products represent only about 20 per cent of Noma's business.

Noma Industries Limited, which began in 1950 when Theresa

Beck and her son Henry Thomas Beck purchased a small company that manufactured cord sets, is a group of Canadian-owned companies specializing in the manufacture and marketing of a range of electrical and mechanical products for the consumer and industrial markets. The group comprises eight operating companies in the Toronto metropolitan region and two subsidiary companies in the US. Each manufacturing company or division of the Noma group is an autonomous entity under the control and direction of a president or general manager.

The largest Noma plant, Noma Inc., is in Scarborough, Ontario. For many years the hub of the Noma group, this facility produces Christmas lighting products, an external range of extension cords and cord products, battery cables and terminals, booster cables, and a range of electrical wire components for the automotive after-market. A new





*Automatic solid-slate production machine, a unique system developed by Noma for the manufacture of Christmas lights.*

company, Noma Industrial Cords Company, in Scarborough, will soon take over Noma Inc.'s production of the range of power cords for the industrial market.

Operations of Noma Inc. also include Timex Tooling Enterprises, a machine-building department where models and prototypes are developed for evaluation and testing and, subsequently, integrated systems for production purposes are constructed in the form of dies, molds, and special computer-controlled machines.

Cable Tech Company in Stouffville, Ontario, is a specialized producer of flexible wire and cable which supplies the Noma companies and also the electrical industry and electrical contractors. They also produce copper rod for subsequent wire drawing operations. The company uses a continuous casting process which was

the first to be installed in Canada.

Other companies in the Noma group are: Beck Electric Manufacturing Company in Downsview, specializing in the manufacture of electrical wiring harnesses; Doubl\*Glo of Canada Limited in Scarborough, which manufactures an extensive range of non-electric Christmas decorations like glass ornaments, garlands, theme items, stockings, tree skirts and table decorations; Noma Decor Inc. in Weston, which offers a complete range of artificial Christmas trees from "table top" trees some 40 centimetres high to "northern highland" trees three metres high; Netron Inc. in Downsview, which is active in the development and marketing of Computer Aided Programming (CAP) which provides a means of automating the production of software; and Canadian Outdoor Products, Inc. in Brampton, which produces and markets power lawnmowers, snowblowers, garden tillers, lawn care tractors and related equipment.

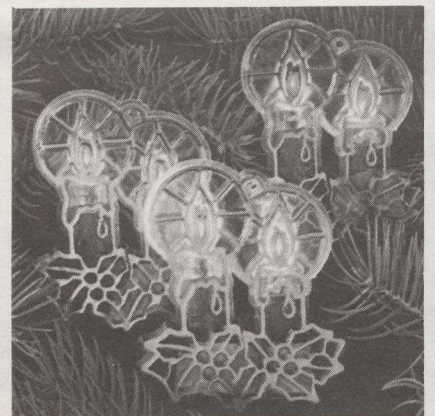
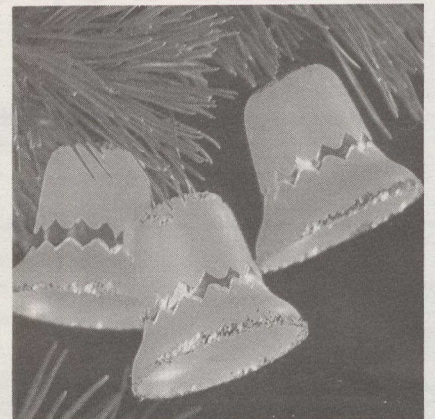
#### **International growth**

In 1972, the year Noma Industries became a corporate entity, the company established a subsidiary company in the United States. Beck Electric Manufacturing Inc., was set up in Stamford, Connecticut to market some of the Christmas and other Noma products in the United States.

In December 1983, Noma Industries Limited purchased the business of Noma World Wide Inc. of Chicago, a major distributor and manufacturer of Christmas lights and decorations throughout the United States. Noma World Wide was the former parent company of Noma Lites Canada acquired by the Becks in 1963.

Company officials expect a new era in the development of Noma's international business not only for Christmas products but for others in the diversified range of consumer products manufactured by the Noma group.

#### **Some Noma decorations**



*The parliament buildings in Toronto, Ontario, decorated with Noma lights.*

Jones & Morris



## Contadora efforts supported

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark met with the ambassadors of the three Contadora countries with resident embassies in Ottawa to discuss the situation in Central America and ways and means of achieving a peaceful solution to the crisis in that region.

The meeting with Jaime Pinzon Lopez of Colombia, José Andres de Oteyza of Mexico and José Maria Machin of Venezuela was held on November 26.

### Search for peace

The countries in the Contadora group are Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama. The group takes its name from the Panamanian island where the four began their peace initiative almost two years ago.

The group wants a peace plan requiring a negotiated, regional settlement to conflicts affecting the Central American countries of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala.

Mr. Clark reaffirmed Canada's strong support for the Contadora initiative. He applauded their efforts to encourage a peaceful settlement of difficulties in Central America and expressed Canada's hope that discussions involving all Central American countries would continue at this crucial period to ensure a comprehensive and workable peace agreement.



Joe Clark

"Canada will continue to express both political and moral support to the peace process in Central America," said Mr. Clark. He added that Canada would be providing comments and advice on control and verification mechanisms, based on experience in peacekeeping operations.

## Canada-USSR sports pact

The second five-year extension of the memorandum to foster friendship through sports was signed on November 15 by Canada's Minister for Fitness and Amateur Sport Otto Jelinek and Ambassador Alexei A. Rodionov, of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The bilateral agreement, which will run through 1988, will ensure the participation of the USSR in Canada's first Winter Olympics to be held in Calgary, Alberta in 1988.

At the signing ceremony in Ottawa, Mr. Jelinek said that Soviet athletes "are

unquestionably among the very best and I know that the skills and experience exchanged in the course of competition under this agreement will be of great benefit to the athletes of both nations".

### Many sports involved

In the first year of the new five-year extension of the agreement, originally signed in 1974, about 60 Canadian athletes and officials will travel to the USSR to participate in figure skating, wrestling, gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and archery competitions.

About 80 Soviet athletes and officials will visit Canada for competitions in hockey, figure skating and freestyle wrestling.

One of the first exchanges under the renewed bilateral agreement was announced recently by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association. It involves a ten-game tour of Canada by a USSR midget hockey team from December 21 this year to January 5, 1985.

The Soviets will play two games each against all-star teams from the Atlantic region, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba-Saskatchewan and Alberta-British Columbia. The Soviets will play the Ontario all-stars at the Ottawa Civic Centre December 23.

"We hope to make it an on-going tour," Canadian Amateur Hockey Association technical director Dennis McDonald of Ottawa said. "By having a bilateral sports agreement, the mechanics should be smoother," he added.

In figure skating there is already a reciprocal agreement to send skaters to Skate Canada and Moscow Skate and coaching exchanges will be considered after the 1985 season in March.

## Pearson Peace Award

Diplomat and educator George Ignatieff has been named recipient of the annual Pearson Peace Award this year. The chancellor of the University of Toronto, selected by a panel of jurists on the basis of lifetime contributions to the cause of peace, received the award, a gold medal, designed by a Toronto sculptress, November 26 from Governor General Jeanne Sauvé.

The Pearson Award was established in 1979 in honour of the late Prime Minister Lester Pearson. It is annually awarded to a Canadian who has contributed to Mr. Pearson's ideals of aiding developing countries, supporting mediation of disputes, aiding refugees and standing for peaceful changes in world affairs.

Last year's recipient was Rev. Georges Henri Levesque, a Dominican priest in Quebec, who was dean of the science faculty at Laval University and founded the University of Rwanda in Africa.

In his long diplomatic career, which began in 1940, the Russian-born Mr. Ignatieff, 70, has served in London and Washington. He has been ambassador to Yugoslavia, deputy high commissioner to Britain and has held a variety of UN posts, including ambassador to the UN between 1966 and 1969. He was also Canadian ambassador to the Disarmament Committee in Geneva from 1969 to 1971. Mr. Ignatieff was named Canada's disarmament ambassador in August but found his duties as chancellor at the University of Toronto prevented him from working full-time in the position.

## Disarmament and arms control: concerns of group



*The Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs under the chairmanship of Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament Douglas Roche, met in Ottawa on November 9 and 10 to discuss ways in which Canada can use its influence in the nuclear age to help reverse the dangerous trends that threaten human existence. The consultative group, composed of interested Canadians — individuals, members of non-governmental organizations, peace associations and universities — was created in 1979 to give effect to recommendations of the first United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in 1978.*



## TelePorts for business contacts

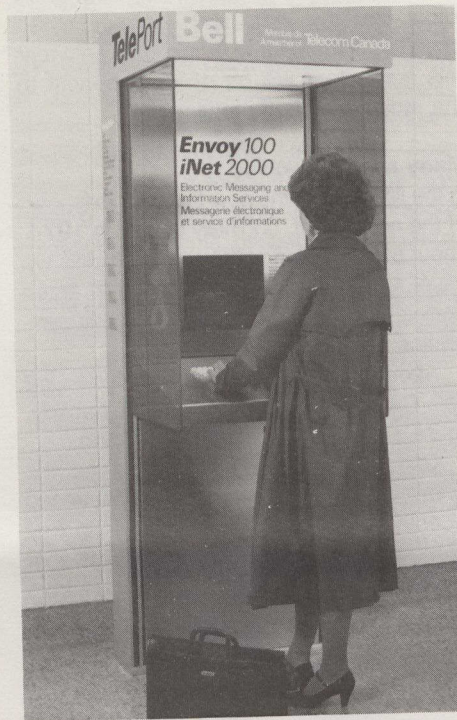
Telecom Canada has started operations of TelePort booths in six airports across the country to help business people keep in touch with their offices.

The TelePort is similar in appearance to a telephone booth but, in addition to the telephone, each contains a terminal with a fully-functional keyboard and an easy-to-read screen so that business people can access their electronic messages and search information databases. The TelePort also includes a handset for charge-a-call phone calls.

TIL Systems Limited of Toronto, a Canadian database provider and terminal manufacturer, developed the actual intelligence of the terminals.

The TelePort booths were developed to ensure that Telecom Canada's *Envoy 100* and *iNet 2000* subscribers could maintain contact with their offices and perform the same functions that are possible from their office or portable terminals. *Envoy 100*, Telecom Canada's public electronic messaging service allows its subscribers to compose, edit, send, receive, and store electronic messages to or from other subscribers or even to compose and send an *EnvoyPost* message — through Canada Post — to non-subscribers. *iNet 2000* is Telecom Canada's information gateway service which provides a single point of access to information on most topics in hundreds of databases.

Two TelePort booths were installed in Montreal's Dorval Airport, three in Toronto,



*Subscribers of Telecom Canada's Envoy 100 and iNet 2000 intelligent communication services are now able to access both services from TelePort booths located in major airports across Canada.*

two in Vancouver, one each in Calgary, Winnipeg and Halifax.

The company expects that booths will eventually be installed in other public places such as hotels, convention centres, train stations and major office towers.

## Regular education for handicapped

The Life Skills program in Manitoba is enjoying considerable success in helping handicapped children become as self-sufficient as possible. The children are taught the basics like grooming and cooking and they are educated to the extent of their abilities.

More than \$1 million has been allocated by the provincial Department of Education over the past two years to provide access and facilities in schools for children with special requirements. Currently 50 per cent of Manitoba's 47 school divisions have special needs students and half of them have a Life Skills facility.

According to Education Minister Maureen Hemphill "these children do better with the rest of the school population than they do in isolation. Our programs are making it possible for them to stay in their home communities".

By training them to take their place in society, the chances of eventually living in

institutions are greatly decreased. There is also the possibility that many of them may also find employment in the community.

### Altering schools

In developing a Life Skills facility, ramps and elevators are provided to give handicapped children physical access to the classrooms. Ramps have to be specially designed to ensure that motorized wheelchairs will not burn out going up or down, and elevators have to be large enough to hold the motorized wheelchairs.

As well as the capital costs associated with renovations, \$25 000 is allocated *per school* for the Life Skills program to provide equipment and materials including stoves, refrigerators, sinks, typewriters or business machines.

In addition, the program provides the services of special education consultants to visit schools, talk to the handicapped

students, their teachers and principals. The consultants will also attend board and public meetings to explain the Life Skills program, if school divisions request the service.

The Life Skills program stresses the individual needs of the students, by breaking the assistance offered down into components they need to function in society.

If for example, some children cannot read the labels on food cans, they are taught to make books of the labels and match them to the products they want when they go shopping.

The program also specializes rather than generalizes. In schools where there is a Life Skills kitchen, students are taught how to prepare and cook vegetables and, in the process, learn good nutritional habits.

The presence of handicapped students in schools has had an effect on many of the other students as well. The school population has learned to be comfortable with the special students. They have learned when to offer help, and when to allow the students to try things on their own. In addition, they have gained some insight into the obstacles being surmounted by these special children.

## New France-Canada company to build nuclear sub

International Submarine Engineering Limited of Vancouver and Comex SA of Marseilles, France, have formed a new company, International Submarine Transportation Systems Inc., to produce the world's first privately owned nuclear-powered submarine.

The *Sea Shuttle-Saga N*, which is expected to be ready for testing in 1989, is being developed for offshore work such as the underwater repair and inspection of pipelines. It will act as a mother ship in ice infested waters for divers and for vehicles operated by remote control.

International Submarine Engineering and a subsidiary, Energy Conversion Systems Inc., had announced plans for the \$70-million project earlier in Vancouver, but the creation of the new company was formally announced at the Canadian Offshore Resources Exhibition held in Vancouver in October.

The Vancouver company is responsible for developing the nuclear power source for the submersible. The nuclear reactor will provide power for seven to ten years.

Comex, a diving equipment company, has already built the hull of the submarine and is working on the technical equipment. The submarine will have a crew of six and room for seven divers.



## Research ship to advance the study of oceanography

A new scientific vessel, the *John P. Tully*, built for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, was christened and launched at Bel Aire Shipyard in Vancouver, British Columbia on October 27.

The ship will be used for a number of roles, including hydrographic surveying on the Pacific coast and in the Northwest Passage, where accurate navigation charts are vital for the safety of shipping serving oil and gas development projects. Oceanographers will use the vessel for expanded studies into coastal pollution and climatic conditions, including the effects of El Nino (the interaction of oceanographic and atmospheric forces that affect world weather patterns) and the ocean's ability to absorb the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere — the so-called "greenhouse effect".

### Specifications

The 21 000-tonne, 68.9-metre *John P. Tully* is powered by twin diesel engines operating a single controllable pitch propeller, giving it a top speed at 14 knots. The vessel's range is 12 000 nautical miles and it can carry enough fuel and provisions for voyages of up to 120 days' duration. The hull is reinforced for navigation in ice.

The vessel has a helicopter landing deck and carries four 8.8 metre hydrographic launches. There are facilities for the crew of 25 and 15 scientists.

Currently the ship is being fitted with the latest surveying and communications equipment, including a sophisticated computer-based ship navigation management system installed for the first time on a Canadian vessel.

The *John P. Tully* will enter into

service in the spring of 1985 and be based at the Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney, British Columbia.

### Scientist honoured

The vessel was named in honour of a Canadian scientist, renowned for his work both in Canada and internationally.

In an address before the launching, Fisheries and Oceans Minister John Fraser said "the *John P. Tully* will bear the name of a pioneering scientist who is almost synonymous with west coast ocean science work and who is responsible for many marine science firsts in Canada".

Dr. Tully began his career in 1931 with the former Fisheries Research Board of Canada at the Pacific Biological Station at Nanaimo, engaging in oceanographic and fisheries research aboard hydrographic vessels surveying the west coast. During the Second World War, he earned the Order of the British Empire for his work on underwater acoustics and sound ranging work with the Royal Canadian Navy.

After the war Dr. Tully became head of the Pacific Oceanographic Group in Nanaimo where he was involved in a number of widely recognized studies, such as those detailing the impact of north Pacific oceanography on the salmon fishery. He is now retired and living in Nanaimo.

Dr. Tully has received many Canadian and international awards for his scientific work. In August 1983, he became the first recipient of the J.P. Tully medal, struck by the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society and awarded for significant contributions to Canadian oceanography.

## Skagit River Valley agreement

The last of three major Skagit River settlement agreements, the Canada-British Columbia Agreement concerning implementation of the Treaty between Canada and the United States of America Relating to the Skagit River and Ross Lake, and the Seven Mile Reservoir on the Pend d'Oreille River — the Skagit River Valley Treaty — was signed on October 29.

The new agreement supplements the Skagit River Valley Treaty and defines and clarifies the roles of the federal and provincial governments in its implementation.

### Previous settlements

The first settlement, the British Columbia-Seattle Agreement, signed on March 30, 1984, set out the terms of the settlement agreed upon by British Columbia and the city of Seattle.

The second document, the Canada-United States Skagit River Valley Treaty, signed on April 2, 1984, resolved those issues British Columbia and Seattle lacked jurisdiction to deal with themselves.

The final settlement marks the successful resolution of long-standing Canadian concerns over the proposal approved by the International Joint Commission in 1942 to raise the Ross Dam in the state of Washington in order to supply electricity to Seattle, but thereby flooding the Skagit River Valley.

### Long-term solution

The settlement, which will be in force for 80 years, ensures that the flooding of the Skagit Valley into British Columbia will not take place. The city of Seattle will not raise the Ross Dam and, in return, British Columbia will supply the city with electricity equivalent to that which would have been generated had the dam been raised. British Columbia will receive as payment for the electricity the sums equivalent to the cost of construction, operation and maintenance of the dam.

Officials of the governments of Canada, the United States and British Columbia as well as the city of Seattle negotiated the settlement under the aegis of the International Joint Commission.

The third agreement was signed by Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark and Minister of the Environment Suzanne Blais-Grenier, representing the Canadian government, and Minister of Intergovernmental Relations Garde B. Gardom and Minister of the Environment J. Brummet, representing British Columbia.



The *John P. Tully* being launched at Bel Aire Shipyard in Vancouver, British Columbia.



## Companion of the Order of Canada awards

Five Canadians recently received Canada's highest award, the insignia of a Companion of the Order of Canada, for their contributions and work in Canada and abroad.

The presentations were made by Governor General Jeanne Sauvé at a ceremony on October 3.

Ludmilla Chiriaeff, founder of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, was honoured for her contribution to the development of ballet in Canada; Frances G. Halpenny was recognized for her efforts as editor of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography/Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*; Joseph Morris, an outstanding figure in the Canadian trade union movement, has become a leader in international labour circles; and Oscar Peterson, who is considered to be one of the world's finest jazz pianists, was recognized for his efforts as a Canadian musical ambassador as a result of his many world tours. John Laskin also received an insignia on behalf of his father, the late chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Bora Laskin.

During the presentation ceremony, 23 Canadians received the insignia of an Officer of the Order of Canada and 46 received the insignia of a Member of the Order of Canada.



Mrs. Sauvé presents the insignia of a Companion of the Order of Canada to Frances Halpenny, editor of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*.

## Spiritual theme adopted on Christmas stamps

The 1984 Christmas stamps issued by Canada Post Corporation feature religious paintings by three Canadian artists.

Religious themes have often been the source of artistic inspiration. The Annunciation, or Ave Maria, and the Nativity are perhaps the themes most frequently dealt with in Christian painting, and Canadian painting is no exception to this tradition.



Mary Bouchard's (1912-1945) *The Three Kings*. This highly coloured painting in the naive style depicts the three kings in the family celebration of Epiphany in the artist's home. The painting is in a private collection.

David Milne's (1882-1953) *Snow in Bethlehem* is portrayed on the 64-cent international rate stamp. The painting is an attempt reflect a religious theme without a preconceived idea and is one of the series of paintings on biblical themes created by Mr. Milne in the early 1940s. It is in the collection of the Art Gallery of Ontario.

The Christmas stamps were designed by Montreal graphic designers Jean Morin and Tom Yakobina and produced in four-colour lithography.

## Stick 'n Tick labels

Canadians were able to mail their Christmas cards at a 12 per cent discount rate this year through the use of special code labels.

The program, called Stick 'n Tick, provided customers with stamps to stick in the usual upper right hand corner of an envelope and postal code labels that could be ticked with a pen or pencil after they were placed in the bottom right-hand corner. All letters of the alphabet and all digits from zero to ten were included on each label.

The new system was introduced to make Christmas cards readable by the mechanized mail-sorting equipment now in use in major post offices across the country.

Canada Post first experimented with the scheme in Winnipeg last Christmas. This year the discount was offered in the Ottawa-Hull metropolitan area; London, Ontario; Victoria, British Columbia; Edmonton, Alberta; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Quebec City. While the discount stamps could only be bought in these areas, they could be mailed anywhere in Canada.

The discount was offered as an experiment to see if it would increase use of the postal service.

The actual cost of mailing a domestic-rate card dropped from 32 cents to slightly more than 28 cents. The special stamps and labels were available in sets of 12. Each set cost \$3.39, or 45 cents less than the \$3.84 cost of 12 first-class stamps.

## New deal for taxpayers

Revenue Minister Perrin Beatty recently announced a new arrangement for taxpayers aimed at making the tax system simpler, fairer and more accountable.

Under the new plan, taxpayers will be granted an impartial hearing before being required to pay taxes Revenue Canada says they owe.

Businesses will be able to receive advance rulings from the department on possible tax shelters, and Revenue Canada will no longer solicit publicity in tax evasion cases before the courts or begin an investigation on the basis of the taxpayer's prominence.

Mr. Beatty also announced an amnesty on tax evaders, appealing to them to step forward and pay their share without fear of prosecution.

The measures were adopted from proposals made by the Conservative Party's task force on Revenue Canada earlier in 1984.



## Special arts programs highlight Christmas celebrations across the country

Many of Canada's cultural institutions are reflecting the spirit of Christmas in a variety of special events and programs this year.

Music, films, exhibitions and even candlelight castle tours are all included in the special offerings that Canadians are enjoying as part of the spirit and tradition of the Yuletide season.

The Vancouver Art Gallery of Vancouver, British Columbia, is ringing with the sound of live music throughout December, with performances by some of the city's most talented artists.

The gallery's Christmas festival of music involves a series of informal Sunday afternoon concerts.

Presenting music from the Renaissance period through to the light classics, the artists include: North Shore Chamber Orchestra, the British Columbia Boys Choir, the Norman Madrigal Singers, the Arcadelt Consort, piano duo Joyce Rawlings and Don Stagg, harpist Heidi Krutzen, pianist Dorothy Huang, and violinist Anita Molaro.

### Star of Bethlehem

*The Christmas Star*, a film presented as an annual feature at the Royal Ontario Museum's McLaughlin Planetarium in Toronto, portrays the night sky as it would have been at Christ's birth and examines theories about the star of Bethlehem. This is the fourth version of the family show that has been presented every year since the Planetarium opened.

The search for an explanation of the star of Bethlehem, recorded in St. Matthew's



Illustration from *The Hockey Sweater*, 1984. The acrylic on masonite paintings for the book by Sheldon Cohen are on display at the McCord Museum in Montreal.

gospel, is almost as old as the New Testament itself. Over the years nearly every kind of celestial phenomenon — comet, meteor, supernova or planetary conjunction — has been suggested.

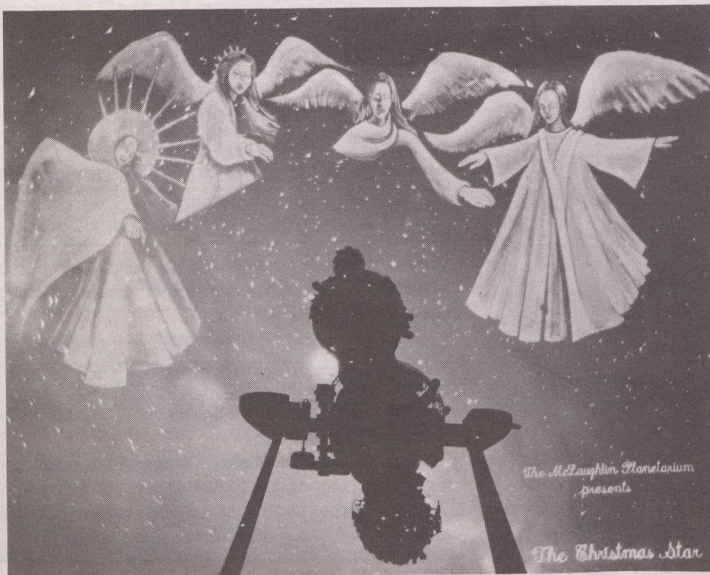
"Despite all our advances in astronomy we can never be sure what the star of Bethlehem was," says McLaughlin Planetarium producer John Kenny, "but myth, miracle or actual occurrence, it remains as an emblem of Christmas."

### Dolls and hockey

Exhibitions in museums over the festive season vary greatly, from *Dolls: Most Prized Possessions*, at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, Alberta, to *The Hockey Sweater* at the McCord Museum in Montreal, Quebec.

The exhibition, *Dolls: Most Prized Possessions*, suggests the Christmas dreams of young and old, girls and boys, and collectors, both amateur and professional, who delight in the imaginative world of dolls. The show features dolls from many areas, along with their houses, furniture and clothing.

*The Hockey Sweater* exhibition includes the 13 award-winning paintings by the National Film Board filmmaker Sheldon Cohen that are in the book of the same name written by Roch Carrier. This is a classic and popular story of the small town boy's hero-worship of hockey star Maurice Richard, who played with the Montreal Canadiens, and his despair when a department store sends him a Toronto Maple Leaf's



A scene from *The Christmas Star* being shown at the Toronto Planetarium during the Christmas season.



Inside Dundurn Castle, Hamilton, Ontario where Christmas activities include tours and treats from the kitchen, the butler's pantry table is set.





These bisque-head dolls in the Glenbow Museum exhibition, *Dolls: Most Prized Possessions*, are only two of the 130 dolls of many varieties spanning 200 years, that are delighting visitors of all ages during the Christmas season.

hockey sweater by mistake. Maurice (Rocket) Richard's, uniform, "number 9" highlights the display. The recently published colour-illustrated book, *The Hockey Sweater*, is also available.

At the Provincial Museum of Alberta in Edmonton, the Christmas program illustrates some of the customs and traditions of seven ethno cultural groups — Dutch, English, French, Germans, Italians, Scandinavians and Ukrainians — that have made Alberta their home. The special exhibits and tours are highlighted by music, singing, folk dancing, craft demonstrations and traditional desserts served in the cafeteria.

#### A castle tour

A unique Victorian experience awaits those who partake of one of the special tours at Dundurn Castle, once the Hamilton, Ontario home of Sir Allan MacNab who was prime minister of the united provinces of Canada in 1854-56. Christmas activities at the castle include: candlelight tours which feature an evening tour through the decorated castle; choral music and treats from the kitchen; evening tours when cider and cookies are served; family tours; a band concert; and Hogmanay celebrations complete with piper and highland dancers.

Visitors to Dundurn Castle's popular evening Christmas tours are treated to an unusual, elegant view of the mansion: candles glowing in the dining room, choirs singing and tables set for Christmas dinner. Scotch eggs, oatcakes, bridies, mincemeat tarts and ginger cakes are among the delicacies served to visitors in the basement kitchen on these tours.

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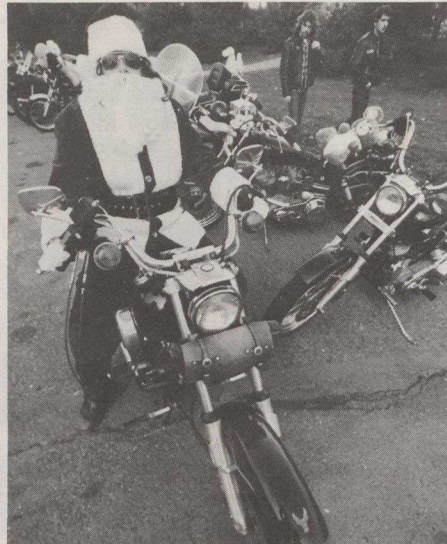
## News briefs

**The Export Development Corporation** (EDC) announced that it has provided financing of \$23.4 million (US) to support a sale by Bombardier Inc. and training and technical assistance services by Tecscult International Limitée, Montreal, Quebec, to l'Office du Chemin de Fer Transgabonais of The Republic of Gabon. The project involves the sale of eight locomotives, 12 diesel engines and spare parts by Bombardier Inc. as well as training and technical assistance services to be provided by Tecscult International Limitée, Montréal, Québec.

**A routine aircraft testing program** was concluded early in November at the Canadian Forces Base in Cold Lake in Alberta, under the terms of an agreement between Canada and the United States. The project involved the testing of two AV-8B (*Harrier*) aircraft operated by the United States Marine Corps. Testing of the *Harrier* jets was the only new project that the US carried out on Canadian soil in 1984.

**Cegelec Industrie Inc.** of Laprairie, Quebec, has been awarded a contract by China for the supply of high-voltage circuit breakers. The contract, of which the first

## Toy collectors on bikes



Andrew Caple, a 25-year-old computer software designer in Ottawa, Ontario, dressed in a Santa Claus suit to help collect toys for the Salvation Army to distribute to needy children. Mr. Caple was one of about 100 bikers who canvassed the city before Christmas looking for new and used toys. He's a member of A Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education, a group attempting to change the image of bikers.

part is worth \$1.4 million (Cdn), will be processed in stages.

**Canada and Haiti** have recently signed a reciprocal employment arrangement. Canada now has 17 such written arrangements, the others being with Australia, Barbados, Britain, Colombia, Denmark, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Sweden, and the United States. The arrangements facilitate employment by removing some legal obstacles to employment. Dependants who obtain work must pay local taxes and social security deductions.

**Carleton University** in Ottawa, Ontario and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland recently held a simultaneous joint seminar, which included the world's first video conference satellite link between two major universities. The seminar was the first in a series of five annual programs entitled *Technology, Innovation, and Social Change*. The seminars are being sponsored by the Centre for Canadian Studies at the University of Edinburgh, and the Institute of Canadian Studies at Carleton University. Northern Telecom Limited of Mississauga, Ontario provided a grant to cover general conference costs, the satellite link and the purchase of equipment for the initial seminar.

**Youth Training Option** (YTO), a pilot program to provide training and work experience for young people, was announced recently by Minister of Employment and Immigration Flora MacDonald. YTO will provide a combination of classroom and on-the-job foundation training designed to help young participants make the transition from school to work. Miss MacDonald said that \$27 million will be released to cover the costs of training 3 000 to 4 000 young women and men.

**The 73-member**, barbershop singing group from Dominion Chalmers United Church in Ottawa recently placed first at the annual Harmony Incorporated convention in Providence, Rhode Island, US. The victory represents the third win for a Canadian chorus since the competition began 25 years ago.

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