

# Canada Weekly

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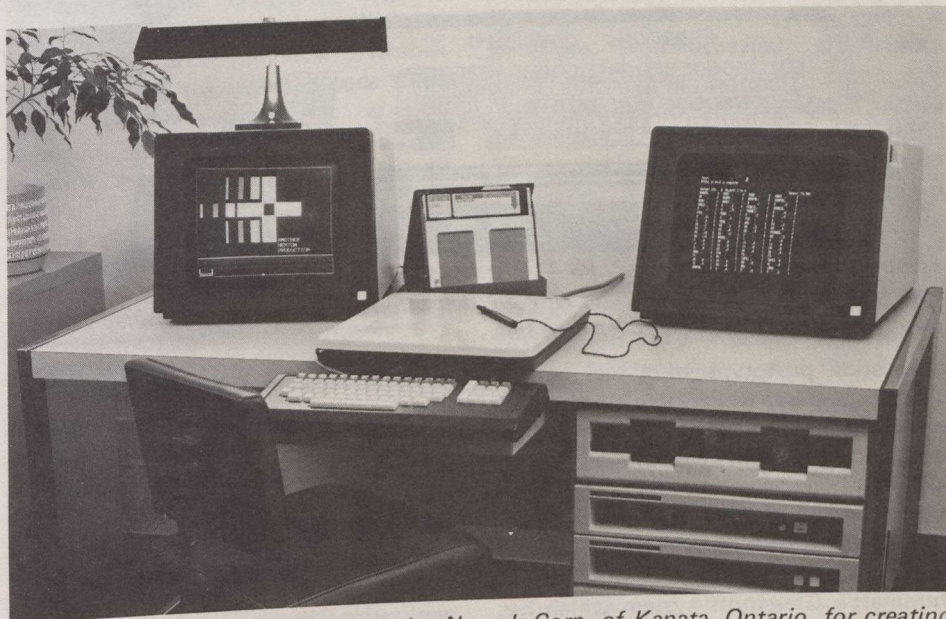
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## Videotex '83: sparkling showcase of Canadian high-tech products



Information Provider System made by Norpak Corp. of Kanata, Ontario, for creating and editing pages, is one of the most popular systems in the world.

Videotex '83, held in New York in late June, attracted more than 1 400 delegates from across the world to what was considered the industry's largest and most important exhibition to date. Nearly two dozen Canadian firms were represented, mostly from Toronto or from Canada's Silicon Valley — the Ottawa suburb of Kanata — and their presence demonstrated the significant and continuing Canadian presence in this burgeoning market.

The conference focused on industry developments and new products as videotex moves into the crucial commercial phase. With the North American Telidon-based videotex and teletext standards firmly in place, the focus has shifted now from hardware to software and its applications.

Among the speeches and panel discussions, one entitled "The Other Standards" confirmed the Telidon-based North American Presentation Level Protocol Syntax (NAPLPS) as the *de facto* videotex standard in North America and explored the business aspects of various

conversion packages for non-compatible systems.

Several international communications and electronics firms have jumped on the videotex band-wagon but at the show many were using Canadian technology and equipment. Others announced agreements with Canadian firms.

Iris, the national teletext service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), generated wide interest. Also, CBC and the United States broadcasting stations NBC and CBS, as well as Time Inc., were using teletext decoders from the Canadian firm Norpak, as did International Business Machines. The Japanese giant, Panasonic, used Canadian-generated pages from Infomart to demonstrate its system. Infomart is a joint venture of Torstar Corporation and Southam Inc. to provide an information data base through videotex.

### New technology

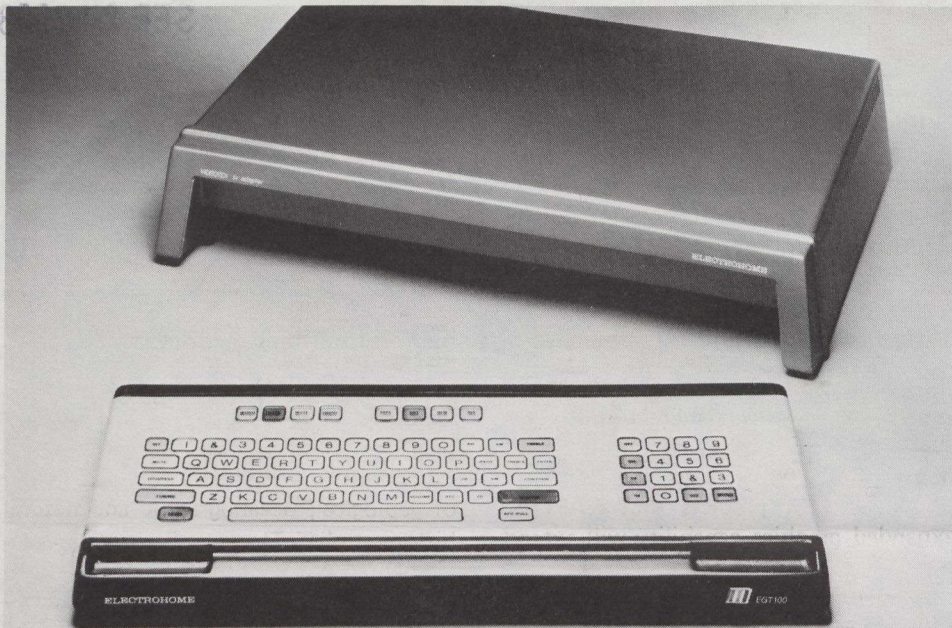
Several Canadian companies used the occasion to announce new technology. Electrohome Ltd. of Kitchener, Ontario



External Affairs  
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*Electrohome's EGT 100 NAPLPS TV set adapter, with a built-in decoder and detachable keyboard. The unit operates with any television set to receive and display videotex information using a normal telephone line.*

unveiled a prototype of a slick, small, TV-top terminal which, like cordless TV channel selectors, uses an infra-red light beam to signal from keypad to computer. The firm expects the \$1 000-Telidon terminal to be available later this year.

The Bank of Montreal has developed a home-banking service to be offered over Infomart's Grassroots system which has 14 000 subscribers in southern Manitoba and has been expanded into Ontario. Cablesare of London, Ontario will supply its Microtex terminals which combine videodisc technology with touch-sensitive videotex screens and full colour graphics.

Following the resounding success of Infomart's Grassroots, an agreement to launch a similar service throughout the US is now being worked out between Videotex America, Infomart's US partner, Agway Inc., Cenex (Farmers Union Central Exchange, Inc.) and Southern States Cooperative, Inc.

#### **Agricultural videotex**

This month, a new agricultural videotex service, AgriData/AgriStar Service, will begin operating in Canada. Developed by AgriData Resources Inc. of Maryland, the NAPLPS service will be marketed in Canada through Radio Shack. Sign-up costs are \$249.95 for six months, with additional on-line charges of \$30 an hour.

Mitsui & Co. Ltd., Japan's largest trading company, demonstrated its far-reaching commitment to Telidon and announced an agreement with Ottawa's Microtaure Inc. to market Canadian pro-

ducts in Japan and Southeast Asia. The agreement gives Mitsui exclusive rights to the distribution of Microtaure's Teligraph videotex software package for microcomputers. The announcement follows agreements between Mitsui and Infomart and the Genesys Group to provide software and applications for demonstration, applications development and marketing purposes. Norpak Corp. of Kanata, Ontario will provide hardware and equipment, including computer graphics services.

Electrohome Ltd. of Kitchener, Ontario unveiled its EGT 100 NAPLPS TV set adapter, with a built-in decoder and

detachable keyboard. The unit operates with any television set to receive and display videotex information using a normal telephone line and contains up to 32K (32 000 characters) of memory. Priced at \$850, the EGT 100 compares favourably with American Bell's Sceptre terminal which boasts similar characteristics and sells for \$1 100.

#### **Norpak deal**

Norpak Corp. announced the signing of a major deal with RCA Service Co. to provide service and installation for the Canadian company's products throughout the US.

Norpak almost eclipsed its own announcement with an even bigger deal, a joint development venture with Rockwell International of Newport Beach, California. The fast-growing Canadian company and the giant US space and defence contractor will co-operate in designing and building computer chips and boards for videotex and teletext equipment. Norpak has become North America's leading manufacturer of videotex decoders and information frame-creation systems.

#### **Videotex and microcomputers merge**

The most visible trend at Videotex '83 was the acceleration of the merger between videotex and microcomputing. Competition to develop low-cost videotex software packages for mass market microcomputers is steep and so far, the most impressive announcements are being made by Canadian companies.

Avcor of Toronto demonstrated a soft-



*Norpak's broadcast teletext decoder. Currently CBC, CBS, NBC and Time Inc. offer teletext services that can all be displayed on Norpak teletext decoders.*



Canada's rapidly-expanding computer technology will be featured at SICOB '83 to be held in Paris at the Palais du CNIT, La Défense, from September 21-30, 1983. SICOB '83 brings together the latest products in computer technology and will include exhibits from several Canadian computer firms.

ware program which sells for \$100 and turns a popular home computer, the Commodore 64, into an interactive videotex terminal. The company plans to develop similar packages for the IBM personal computer (PC) and the Apple before the end of the year. Avcor also unveiled its high resolution slide conversion service. The system can process NAPLPS graphics into high resolution 35 mm slides overnight for \$15 a slide.

Two Ottawa companies, Microstar and Microtaure, demonstrated their software packages which allow microcomputers to be used for graphics creation, videotex data bases etc. Available for less than \$500, Microtaure's TELIgraph and Microstar's Videotex Interpretor for the IBM PC are among the lowest priced micro conversion packages available. Microtaure also displayed its TELIgraph software on a prototype of the new Japanese NEC computer, expected to reach the North American market this month.

Formic of Montreal showed its NAPLPS software for Apple microcomputers and announced the inauguration of its internal videotex network for Systemhouse Inc. Apple terminals with the Formic package will be installed in each of Systemhouse's 16 branches across North America to provide frame creation, data base management, indexing, information retrieval and a training language.

Limicon of Toronto unveiled its GraphEase page creation system for Commodore personal computers. The software package sells for \$1 000 and includes 96 macros, full NAPLPS colour palettes, high resolution page creation and a variable animation window. A complete turnkey system, including the micro hardware is priced at \$5 000 and can produce NAPLPS frames for less than \$2 000.

On display for the first time was Digital Equipment Corp.'s Rainbow 100 personal computer which operates with Cablesare software and includes a graphics tablet and videotex decoder.

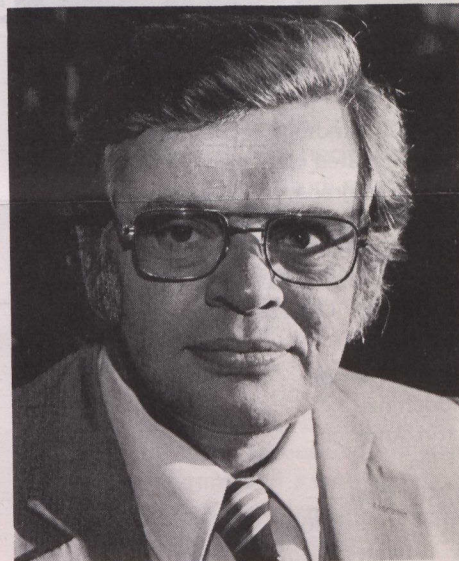
AEL Microtel of Burnaby, British Columbia demonstrated its NTSC-

compatible decoder board with signals of sufficient quality to be mixed with video broadcast signals and able to support a broad range of audio-visual applications.

IBM announced it will support the North American standard and offer PLP software for its IBM SVS/1.1 Videotex System in addition to the Prestel software it now carries. IBM's endorsement of the NAPLPS protocol is expected to create important opportunities for Canadian suppliers such as Norpak, Microtaure and Cablesare whose equipment was included in the IBM display. IBM has already signed an agreement with Norpak Corp. to provide videotex decoders and frame creation systems for its new terminals. IBM predicts that NAPLPS' expanded graphics capability will extend the use of PCs to new business areas including advertising departments, business forecasting and planning groups.

### Award for northern science

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munro has announced the creation of an annual award for northern science to commemorate this year's centenary of the first International Polar Year. The award — consisting of a specially inscribed medal and a \$5 000 cash prize — will be given in recognition of individual contributions to the Canadian north through scientific activity.



*Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munro.*

Mr. Munro announced the award during an address to the Third Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Frobisher Bay. He reminded delegates of the significance of the first International Polar

Year in which scientists from 11 nations came to the Arctic to carry out a carefully co-ordinated research program from August 1882 to September 1883.

The original International Polar Year was the first scientific enterprise and the most significant single event in the founding of the science of geophysics. Fifteen expeditions, sponsored by 11 different nations, visited the Arctic and Antarctic regions to carry out a carefully planned set of simultaneous observations of magnetism, aurora, meteorology, earth currents, ground temperatures, geodetic locations, tidal behaviour and atmospheric electricity.

To this program were added a variety of geological, oceanographic and natural history studies. The expeditions were supplemented by co-ordinated observations at 35 established observatories in 20 countries in Europe, Asia and North and South America, by a dozen special stations in sub-polar latitudes, and by the first co-ordinated attempts at synoptic marine meteorology on the North Atlantic and South Atlantic oceans. The planning and co-ordination of this enormous undertaking as well as the rapid production and dissemination of the results marked an entirely new approach to science as an international and co-operative activity.

The emphasis on rigorous observation and sharing of results has strongly influenced the concept of science in all disciplines in the subsequent century.

### Aid to refugees

Canada will grant a total of \$5 million to aid refugees in Central America, Thailand and Sudan, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen announced recently.

A \$1-million grant will be given to Thailand where a long-term refugee situation affects some 186 000 people. A grant of \$3 million will be given to help up to 200 000 Central American refugees mainly from El Salvador, but also from Guatemala and Nicaragua. An additional \$1-million grant to Sudan will assist the half-million refugees from Ethiopia and Uganda.

Mr. MacEachen also announced that Canada will provide a grant of \$500 000 to aid Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The situation in Pakistan is one of the most critical in the world: there are now more refugees in that country than in any other.



## Females fitter

Canadian female students have scored a victory in the physical fitness division of the battle of the sexes.

Females tested over three months in 1983 between ages seven and 17 were 20 per cent fitter than their counterparts of 15 years ago, while male students are only 7.5 per cent more fit, a national physical fitness study compiled by a University of Ottawa professor shows.

Girls between the ages of 15 and 17 made the biggest gain in the study of 3 186 children in 147 schools throughout Canada. They are 33 per cent fitter

than the female students of 1968. Boys between 11 and 13 made no gain in their fitness levels. The next step will be to compare the fitness levels of Canadian students with those of other countries, University of Ottawa professor Roger Gauthier said. "Fifteen years ago girls over the age of 12 stopped participating in sports," said Mr. Gauthier. "Sports was not something that girls did. This has changed in the past ten years."

He cited more interesting sports programs in the schools along with government programs such as Participaction and the Canadian Fitness Awards as reasons for the fitness improvement.

## Grass is greener for Omnisport

In November 1981, as heavy rains drenched England, a British Broadcasting Corporation television crew went out into the streets of London to shoot some flood scenes. After showing cars up to their hoods in water, the cameras panned to an unbelievable sight: on the Queen's Park Rangers' soccer field a game of soccer was in progress on a surface that appeared to be bone dry.

If the Ontario firm of Omnisport International Limited, world marketer of the artificial turf, had paid thousands of dollars to an advertising agency, it could not have come up with a better promotion for its product.

Omniturf's porosity, however, is only one of the qualities that is making it a best-seller on the world market.

"As an ex-ballplayer, I know that soccer's an entirely different game when it's played on synthetic turf," said Barry Davies, marketing director for the St. Catharines firm. "The game is more entertaining to the audience, for one thing, because it's faster — muddy fields slow it down considerably.

"The most amazing thing about the Queen's Park Rangers' experience with Omniturf has been that the club's injury rate has dropped by 35 per cent, a major improvement for any team in any sport," he said.

## Burns a concern

Mr. Davies said the major concern players have had about artificial turf is that it can cause skin burns if they slip and fall.

"Unlike competitive nylon products such as Astroturf, polypropylene Omniturf doesn't retain the static electricity that builds up in the course of a game," he said. "In fact, in all of the games played on the QPR field — and that includes rugby and field hockey — there hasn't been one burn recorded."

Recently, three British groups signed orders worth £2 million to have recreational facilities surfaced with Omniturf synthetic grass. Six multi-purpose ball play areas — each the size of a football pitch — will be built at Sunderland in Brent, West London and at Rhondda.

In the past year Omnisport has installed more than 200 tennis courts (at a cost of £8 000) in Europe.

The company has sold turf in 17 countries — in Europe, the Middle East, Australia and Africa.

## Last year's report of immigrant source countries



Preliminary statistics for 1982 indicate that more immigrants came to Canada from Britain than from any other country. The following preliminary statistics, compiled by the Immigration Statistics Program Data Directorate of Employment and Immigration Canada, list the top ten immigrant source countries.

Britain	—	16 186
USA	—	8 945
Poland	—	8 134
India	—	7 535
Hong Kong	—	6 378
Vietnam	—	5 791
Philippines	—	4 908
Federal Republic of Germany	—	4 349
China	—	3 532
Guyana	—	3 402

In total, according to preliminary statistics, 119 018 immigrants came to Canada in 1982.

## Refugees

The following list, based on statistics from Employment and Immigration Canada's

Refugee Policy Division, indicates the number of refugee landings in Canada in 1982.

These landings represent (i) refugees and designated class members who arrived with immigrant visas during the period shown and (ii) refugees and designated class members who arrived previously with Minister's Permits and who were landed in Canada during the period shown.

Eastern Europe	9 328
Indochina	5 621
Latin America	413
Africa	372
Middle East	272
Other convention refugees selected abroad	189
Total refugees and designated class immigrants selected abroad	16 195
Convention refugees granted protection in Canada	626
Total	16 821



## Bell Canada brings phones to Saudi Arabia



*Computer systems have been a valuable aid in streamlining telecommunications administration at Saudi Telephone. The data processing centre, developed by Bell Canada International as part of its operations and management contract with the Saudi Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, is one of the largest and most advanced in the Middle East.*

Despite the problems facing world economies, telecommunications continues to be an expanding industry; forecasts indicate that world telecommunications growth will be 7 per cent annually over the next four years compared to less than 3 per cent for world-wide general economic growth.

This forecasted growth can be seen as the result of advanced nations changing to information societies and the realization by developing and newly-industrialized nations that well-managed telecommunications infrastructure is imperative for long-term economic well-being.

For Bell Canada International (BCI), a wholly-owned subsidiary and the world-wide consulting and project management arm of Bell Canada Enterprises Inc., such a forecast signifies an opportunity to earn an important share of the telecommunications market.

On May 2, BCI signed a \$1.6-billion five-year contract with the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone (PTT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The contract is supported by an Export Development Corporation (EDC) insurance policy which is the largest in the corporation's history. The agreement follows a previous five-year contract for \$1.1 billion which was signed in 1978 by Bell Canada and Saudi Arabia and which was also sup-

ported by an EDC insurance policy.

BCI, since its establishment in 1976, has undertaken major projects in more than 50 countries on six continents. In 1982, it was actively engaged in 55 projects in 28 countries with new projects launched in Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States, the Far East and Africa.

### Largest project

The largest continuing project is in Saudi Arabia and it calls for the provision of advice, assistance, and technical and managerial expertise to Saudi nationals to facilitate the development and operation of the national telephone system.

Bell Canada, under the first five-year contract, carried out the largest-ever managerial undertaking in the history of the telecommunications industry, providing personnel in such fields as installation, repair and maintenance, plant, engineering, traffic, rates, accounting, finance, medical, purchasing and a wide variety of operating and staff management. In effect, Bell Canada, working closely with the existing staff of the PTT's telephone administration, created a completely new telephone organization. During that period, the number of working telephones increased to 725 000 from 126 000; switching capacity grew to 1.1 million lines from fewer than 200 000; international calls increased to 2.3 million a

month from fewer than 100 000; and the number of public coin telephones increased from zero to 3 600. In addition to the expansion of the telephone system, Bell also established the management of the system which is being continued under the new contract.

Bell at present has about 650 Canadians in management positions in Saudi Arabia under the previous contract and will add about 100 more as a result of the new one. Also, employment in Canada for about 100 support persons will be created.

There are currently several hundred Saudis working in management positions and the emphasis under the new contract will be to train Saudis for virtually all such positions in Saudi Telephone in order that Saudi Arabia's ultimate goal of managerial self-sufficiency can be achieved.

## New toxicology centre

Ontario's Ministry of the Environment has announced the creation of a Centre for Toxicology in co-operation with the University of Guelph and the University of Toronto. A total of \$10 million will be committed to the project by the province's Board of Industrial Leadership and Development (BILD).

The centre, with a headquarters office in Guelph, Ontario, is designed to provide long-term toxicological research into the human risks associated with toxic materials in the environment. The proposed programs of the centre will include analytic and testing services, cellular and molecular toxicology, epidemiology, environmental and food-chain dynamics, and professional training.

The centre is expected to require up to \$25 million of capital funds. The two universities will be looking for support from the private sector to add to the \$20 million which the provincial and federal governments are providing for this new program.

A toxicology centre was proposed under the BILD program in 1981 as a related and complementary initiative to a centre for biotechnology. The latter, Allelix Inc., is located in Mississauga, Ontario and is a joint venture with Labatts, the Canada Development Corporation and the Ontario government.

Toxicology refers to the science of poisons and their impact on living systems. Approximately 100 000 man-made chemicals are now in use.



## European market for healthful Canadian foods

The growth of the "health" food industry indicates a gradual change in the dietary habits of Canadians, writes Ben Malkin, Parliamentary press correspondent, in *Canadian Scene*. From the small health food specialty shops, the movement towards a different kind of diet has spread to the supermarkets, where tubs are now standing in rows, filled with largely unprocessed grains, nuts, and other foods.

The movement may be traced to two factors: a growing distrust of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, and a growing impatience with packaged food, with the shopper unable to see exactly what he or she is getting, either in quantity or quality.

An article in *Food Market Commentary*, a publication of Agriculture Canada, analyzes the growing movement toward a new Canadian diet. To begin with, the

article sorts out the difference between "health" food, "natural" food, and "organic" food. It quotes a consultant commissioned by the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture to study the new trend. His definitions: "Health food is a broad description of foods that are sold because they are believed by some to provide a healthful benefit. Natural food is a less broad term for foods that have undergone minimal processing.... Organic foods, an even less broad segment, are foods grown without the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers."

The article says the study focused on organic foods because they are the segment with the most direct implications for farmers.

"A number of producers in Saskatchewan," the article reports, "who farm without chemical pesticides or fertilizers are trying to establish more effective

marketing channels for their products. Among the difficulties they face in this effort is the confusion among consumers and distributors over what is meant by the various categories of 'health' food.

"Consumers are vulnerable to fraud or unintended deception because they are not well equipped to evaluate the claims which are made for various food products. Saskatchewan organic producers are eager to have some standards defined for organic production, as well as some means of inspection and enforcement."

Being free of chemical residues or additives, organically grown foods command a premium price. "The group of organic grain growers in Saskatchewan," says the article, "is working to supply a European buyer with several thousand tonnes of wheat at a price that is about 50 per cent above that of the current market.

"In western Europe," the article continues, "health food and natural food stores are described as 'mushrooming'. Most of the product sold by these stores is not organic, however, and the stores would like to buy organic grains if they are available.

"European farmers are trying to reduce their use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, mainly in response to rising costs. Nevertheless, the extent of industrial pollution of air and water in parts of Europe apparently makes many health-food customers suspicious as to whether any foods grown in that environment can be completely free of chemical residues. Thus the prospect of being able to advertise foods grown organically in the supposedly pure air of the Canadian prairies may explain the interest of European wholesalers in Saskatchewan grain."

## Special stamps mark Newfoundland's four-hundredth anniversary and World Council of Churches assembly

Canada Post Corporation has issued a 32-cent commemorative stamp to mark Newfoundland's four-hundredth anniversary and honour its founder, Sir Humphrey Gilbert.

Sir Humphrey claimed Newfoundland for Queen Elizabeth I in 1583, laying the foundations of the British Empire and marking the beginnings of Newfoundland.

The stamp, designed by Roger Hill of Toronto, bears a portrait of Sir Humphrey and a polar projection map he used to convince the Queen to allow him to found a colony in the New World. The map had been prepared in 1582 by an astronomer, John Dee. Sir Humphrey set sail for the New World June 11, 1583, arriving in St. John's harbour August 3. He died a few weeks later on his return trip to England.

Another special stamp was issued this summer to mark the Sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches which was held in Vancouver from July 24 to August 10.

The stamp, designed by Gus Tsetsekas of Vancouver, features steel-engraved cross elements of different sizes which come together to form a larger cross, symbolic of its meaning to all churches. The minister responsible for Canada Post Corporation, André Ouellet, said the stamp was issued "because organizations of international scope that strive for spiritual and human dignity, such as the World Council of Churches, deserve our attention". The council, an ecumenical organization of some 300 Protestant and orthodox churches in about 90 countries, is now 35 years old. It maintains programs aimed at promoting world evangelism and dialogue between people of different faiths and ideologies, involving itself with relief work and combating racism.



## Poverty rate drops

Among those most likely to be poor in Canada are unemployed people with eight or fewer years of education and who rent their living accommodations, new Statistics Canada figures show.

The federal agency also reports a high incidence of poverty in rural Maritime families, elderly widows in Quebec and immigrants who arrived after 1960.

There were approximately 3.5 million persons living in poverty in 1981, about the same number as in the previous year. However, because of population growth, the poverty rate declined to 14.7 per cent from 15.1 per cent of the total population.



## Exhibit portrays Judeo-Christian heritage

The biblical story of Jacob's dream of a ladder climbing from earth to heaven and its expression of the human need to communicate with the divine provide the backdrop to the exhibition *Ladders to Heaven: Our Judeo-Christian Heritage 5000 B.C. — A.D. 500*. The exhibit is on view at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa until mid-October.

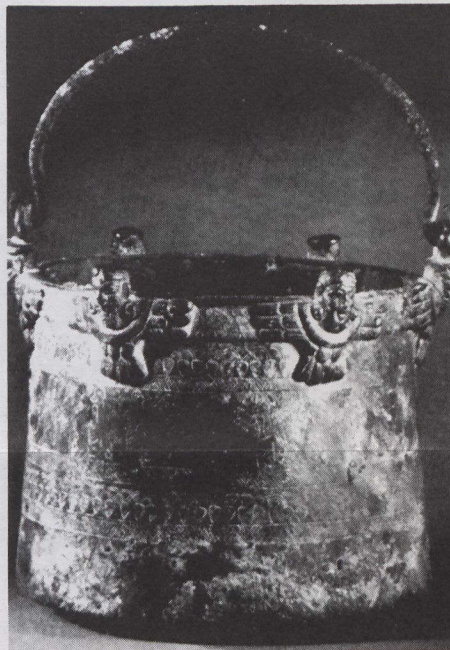
The 305 ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean objects in the exhibition articulate man's early perception of the gods that created and controlled his environment and illustrate the rituals he developed to honour them.

Cylinder seals, stamp seals, terracottas, bronzes, ivory and shell plaques all weave a pattern of human activities and beliefs, together with sculptures, mosaics, jewellery, tablets with cuneiform inscriptions, and a sarcophagus.

### First written exchanges

This exhibition represents only a small part of a collection of 1700 pieces assembled by Dr. Elie Borowski and donated to the Lands of the Bible Archaeology Foundation.

It spans 5000 years, reaches across the boundaries of most East Mediterranean countries, and contains examples of man's first written exchanges, from the cuneiform writing of Mesopotamia to the more familiar Greek and Latin

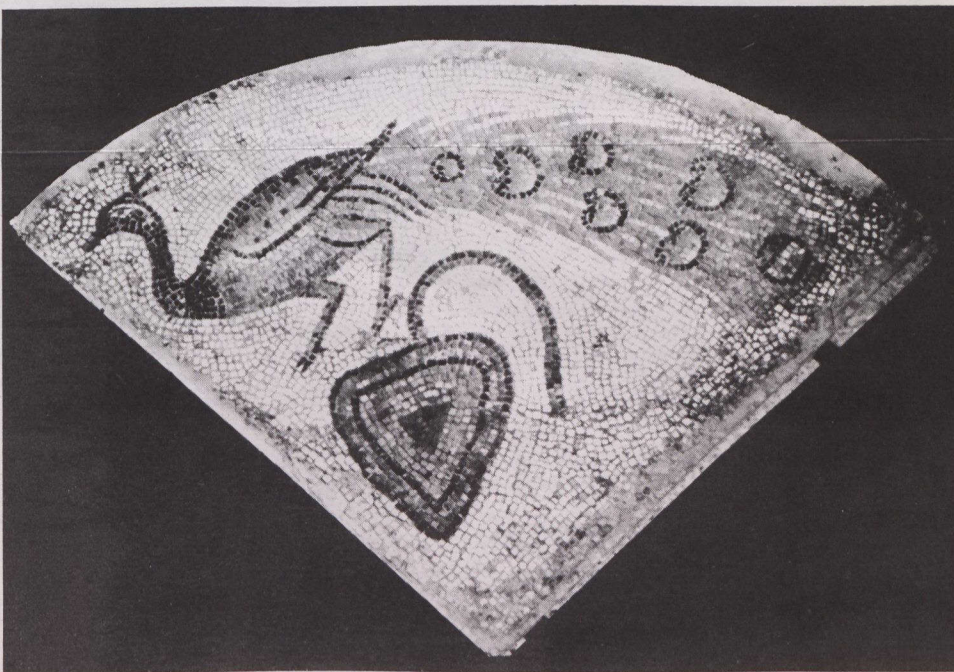


Ritual bucket with winged protomes (Northern Syria, eighth century).

alphabets.

The exhibition demonstrates the importance of the artistic tradition of the many geographic regions referred to in the Old and New Testaments.

An audio guide and video presentation enhances the travelling exhibition's portrayal of the cultural milieu that produced today's biblical traditions.



Mosaic showing a peacock and grape leaf, stone and stucco (East Mediterranean, sixth century).

## Moscow festival honours Canadian

Canadian actress Marilyn Lightstone has been awarded a diploma from a committee of Soviet women at the close of this summer's Moscow Film Festival for her portrayal as the mother Rose Anna Lacasse in the movie version of Gabrielle Roy's novel *The Tin Flute*.

The story of the struggles of a poor, working-class family in Montreal's St. Henri district during the 1940s, the Canadian movie had its world premiere at the Moscow festival July 13, the same day that author Gabrielle Roy died.

Marilyn Lightstone, born in Montreal, is a leading Canadian stage, screen and television actress and has appeared in several movies including *In Praise of Older Women* and *The Wild Pony*.

## Arts briefs

Canada's first dance video tape library will be housed at York University, Toronto. The collection now includes 60 tapes representing the works of many Canadian choreographers who submitted applications for the \$5 000 Jean A. Chalmers Choreography Award. The award has been presented yearly since 1974 to encourage artists to create works and develop their skills.

A duplicate version of the Ontario Science Circus — the travelling exhibition comprising more than 40 participatory exhibits put together by the province's Ontario Science Centre, Toronto — has been sold for \$700 000 to a Japanese publishing firm, Kyoikusha Co. It is the first overseas sale of the OSC, which caused considerable interest in Birmingham, Britain, in 1981, and later at the Science Museum in London.

The Canadian Film Institute will spearhead efforts to raise \$10 million for construction of Canada's first Omnimax theatre complex to be located in Ottawa. Government and industry officials have endorsed the project following results of a feasibility study. Omnimax, claimed as the world's most sophisticated motion picture technology, uses a "fish eye" (wide angle) lens to project film on a giant screen, similar to a titled planetarium dome. The audience is surrounded by a continuous image and loudspeakers are behind the screen to allow the sound to move across the room.



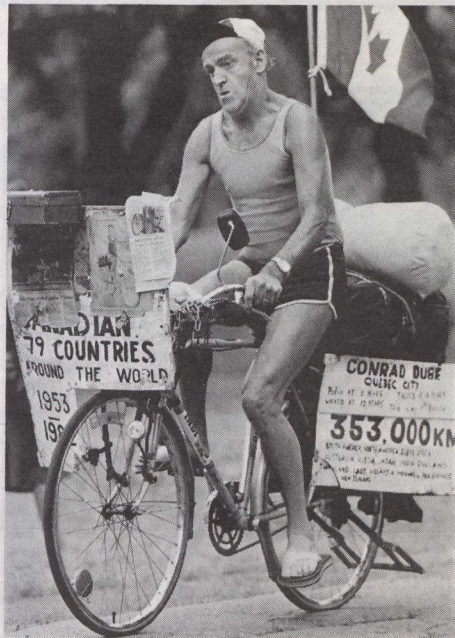
## News briefs

Canada will provide up to \$5 million to assist reconstruction efforts in Lebanon, it was announced recently by the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen. The funds will be directed through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This \$5 million, earmarked to assist in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of such vital facilities as hospitals, schools, housing, water supply and sanitation installation, power lines, telecommunication and transport systems is in addition to the almost \$4 million CIDA has already provided in the past year to a variety of emergency relief and humanitarian aid organizations.

**Northern Telecom International Ltd.** has announced its first major sale in New Zealand — two SL-1 digital business communications systems to the New Zealand Post Office. The SL-1s will have automatic call distribution and queuing features that permit calls to be automatically distributed and provide recorded announcements to waiting callers. The systems will also provide management with billing information and other details on calls. The first system was installed earlier this year and has been used by New Zealand Post Office for training technicians in SL-1 system installation, maintenance and operations. More than 6 100 SL-1s have been sold to date in more than 40 countries.

With industry figures revealing a growing preference for full-sized cars, the Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd., Oakville, Ontario will start building the Crown Victoria, Ford's largest car, six weeks earlier than expected. Large car sales in Canada represented 8.8 per cent of car sales during the first half of 1983, compared with 8.2 per cent last year. The St. Thomas assembly plant, which has been building small cars since its opening in 1967, will be manufacturing 45 Crown Victorias an hour.

The Harbourfront Computer Centre, opening this month in Toronto, will provide "hands-on" computer instruction for the public. About 62 microcomputers will be available, on loan from a variety of manufacturers. Professional development days, seminars and workshops will also be provided as part of an over-all plan to "demystify computers to the general public".



*Quebec City cyclist Conrad Dubé set out recently on his ninth world trip by bicycle. Mr. Dubé, 54, had polio as a child and could not walk until he was 12. But there is no stopping him now; he pedals over 120 kilometres a day.*

The 1982 annual report of the Royal Canadian Mint showed a profit of \$14.9 million on revenues of \$750 million. The highlight of the year and its best hope for future growth is the success of its maple leaf gold coin. Originally seen as a vehicle to stimulate the Canadian mining industry, the maple leaf has become a popular inflation-beater for international investors and now accounts for a quarter of the world sales of gold coins. In the two-and-a-half months since the Ontario government lifted the sales tax on the maple leaf, it has outsold the South African Krugerrand four to one, a complete reversal of market share.

**Spar Aerospace**, the Toronto-based firm responsible for the highly-successful arm of the United States space shuttle, has signed a \$65-million contract with British Aerospace to help build a new European satellite. Spar Aerospace will manufacture solar panels for the L-SAT, a 50-metre-long advanced communications satellite being built by the European Space Agency. The Canadian company will also be responsible for the assembly, integration and testing of the spacecraft according to the recently-signed contract with British Aerospace, the prime contractor. It is estimated the deal will create 1 200 man-years of work at Spar plants in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa.

The federal and provincial governments and Consumer Co-operative Refinery Ltd. ended years of speculation when they announced recently a heavy-oil upgrading plant capable of producing 50 000 barrels a day will be built in Regina. Cost of the project, which involves financial assistance from the federal and provincial governments, is estimated at \$600 million. The facility is to be operational by mid-1987.

**General Kinetics Engineering Corporation** of Malton, Ontario has won a contract valued at \$1.3 million (US) from Canadian Commercial Corporation for the supply of shock absorbers to the US Army. This is the fourth contract awarded to General Kinetics through the Corporation since January 1983, at a cumulative value of \$4 million (US). Delivery is expected to be completed in December 1983.

**Minister of State** for International Trade Gerald Regan has announced that the Export Development Corporation has renewed a line of credit agreement valued at \$10 million (US) with Magyar Nemzeti Bank of Budapest, Hungary to assist Canadian exporters competing for sales in Hungary by providing their buyers with an easy accessible credit facility through the bank. The original line of credit, signed in 1980, resulted in allocations totalling \$4.4 million (US).

A rare male snow leopard became the first zoo animal in the world to successfully undergo an operation for hip dysplasia, officials at the Calgary Zoo said. Peter Karsten, executive director of the zoo, said the operation by a team of three veterinarians "went extremely well" and Cheyenne the leopard should be back in the running soon. Dysplasia is a condition of abnormal tissue growth.

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