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Bridging boat beats competitors in world markets

The powerful, highly-maneuvrable, shallow-draught boat, the *SeaLander*, developed by Versatech Products of Vancouver, British Columbia, has out-performed similar vessels from other countries to win the company a contract with the Canadian armed forces.

The prototype prepared by Versatech for the competition and four more *SeaLanders* were initially purchased by the armed services and more recently they have placed a \$2.5-million order for ten more craft.

Export contracts

In addition to negotiations with Canada's Department of National Defence, Versatech has made a bid to supply its military *SeaLander* to five countries in South America and Southeast Asia. Although the company has not identified the countries, Mehdi Adib, vice-president of marketing, said that "the smallest order would be for more than Canada has ordered and the South American country wants 60".

The company is also hoping to sign a contract to supply the vessel to China. Representatives from China State Shipbuilding Corp. of Peking and Shanghai, a Chinese company engaged in the manufacture of all types of marine-related equip-

ment, recently visited Versatech to discuss requirements, terms and conditions. The Chinese left with the draft of a basic agreement, and Versatech hopes that a firm contract will be settled in the near future.

"Initially, we will manufacture most of the parts here and supply parts which we now obtain from other manufacturers. Some of the equipment will be produced by the Chinese themselves," said Mr. Adib.

The military version of the *SeaLander* is an outgrowth of vessels that the company has produced since 1972 as workboats for the oil industry. More than 150 have been sold world-wide.

The oil industry uses the vessel to carry cargo to offshore platforms and to transfer cargo and personnel to various drilling locations. Because the vessel is strong, has a shallow draft and can be used in most water conditions, other industries also find it useful — the forest industry, for example, uses it for logging operations.

Military applications

The Department of National Defence will use the *SeaLander* Model 27/4 to build floating bridges on tow sections of bridges to carry tanks and soldiers across fast-



The combat-support bridge-erection boat is a versatile vessel that can be adapted for many jobs.



External Affairs
Canada

Affaires extérieures
Canada

flowing water. Although only nine metres long, they will be the largest bridge-builders in the NATO system, said Robert Jack, vice-president of marine.

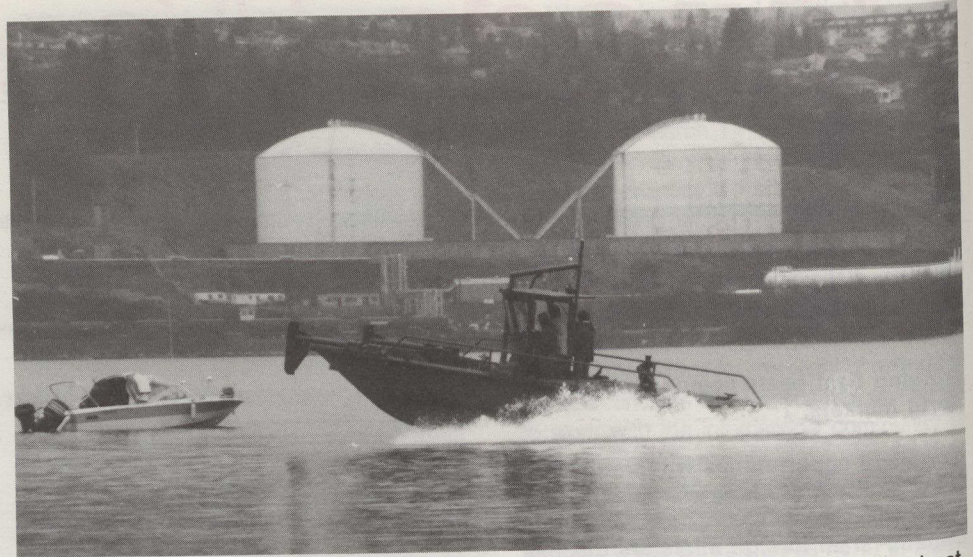
SeaLander Model 27/4 can be used as a combat support boat as well as a bridge erection boat. There is enough space on the foredeck to carry a Jeep-size vehicle and/or personnel and cargo.

A vehicle loading ramp that can be fitted to the bluff bow, mounts two bridge erection push bars that can be used to nudge pontoons. A towing bollard can also be fitted on the boat.

The vessel measures 9.34 metres long, has a 3-metre beam, weighs 7 315 kilograms fully laden when it has a draft of about only 40.6 centimetres. All high-stress areas of its glass fibre hull are strengthened with a balsa core stiffening. Polyurethane foam is used to increase buoyancy.

Considered by many to be the most powerful boat of its type anywhere, it can develop more thrust than a comparative-weight corporate jet plane. Powered by twin 250-kilowatt petrol-driven engines connected to 508 millimetre water jets, the forward thrust is in excess of 2 500 kilograms and 1 350 kilograms in reverse, ensuring that bridge sections can be held in place even against strong tides or currents.

While not designed for speed, the *Sea-*



Versatech's prototype *SeaLander* out-performed similar vessels on the water to win a contract.

Lander can travel at more than 50 kilometres per hour and from this speed it can stop in less than nine metres.

An exhaust muffler reduces both heat signature radiation — which makes it difficult to detect at night using infrared cameras — and engine noise. The vessel can carry enough fuel to operate at full speed for eight hours or cruise for 12 hours. Some other features include a vessel lifting rig, removable push bars, a sternguard/swim grid, removable full length safety rails

and a demountable cabin top.

A flatbed vehicle for transport and a special trailer that can launch or retrieve the boat from any embarkment up to one metre high are also available.

In addition to producing *SeaLanders*, Versatech, continues to design and manufacture equipment related to oil spill control. Mr. Adib said the company has "seven types of oil containment booms, skimmers to remove oil from water, and storage tanks to hold the oil, which is later recycled".

Increased opportunities with employment equity measures

Minister of Employment and Immigration Flora MacDonald, Secretary of State and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Walter McLean and President of the Treasury Board Robert de Cotret have announced measures that will bring new employment opportunities to women, native people, disabled persons and visible minorities in crown corporations, federally-regulated businesses and firms contracting with the government.

"This is a major step toward achieving genuine employment equity in Canada," said Miss MacDonald in the announcement to the House of Commons.

The measures represent the government's response to recommendations of the Royal Commission on Equality in Employment, which was headed by Judge Rosalie Abella. (See *Canada Weekly*, January 23, 1985.)

Miss MacDonald said: "Our response to the Abella Report is a positive and practical step toward equality. We are creating an environment of change. We want to ensure that all workers can participate in and contribute to our economic growth."

The new measures stipulate that crown corporations must begin implementing employment equity by September and begin reporting annually within a year; that federally-regulated businesses with more than 100 employees, must develop plans and begin reporting within three years; and that companies tendering on government contracts for goods and services, must certify their commitment to employment equity and show results.

Through mandatory reporting on progress, employers will have their performance publicly scrutinized. The information will also be available to the Human Rights Commission which will initiate investigations and respond to complaints.

Mr. de Cotret said that "the principle of employment equity is already accepted within the federal public service" and that Treasury Board is now working on a number of measures to ensure that the principle is further reflected in federal employment policies and practices. They include:

- the immediate initiation of a Treasury Board review to identify any systemic

barriers that may exist in the public service job classification system that may be discriminating against target groups in the affirmative action program announced in June 1983;

- increased emphasis on the strategies for implementing comprehensive and results-oriented affirmative action plans in departments, and a commitment that adequate resources be available in this area; and,
- an invitation to public service unions to participate in a senior-level joint union-management committee to recommend an implementation plan to the government in the area of equal pay for work of equal value. The preliminary report of this committee is expected in June.

Mr. de Cotret said "that these specific measures will provide the needed focus to ensure that the public service affirmative action program achieves its goals".

Government departments are currently preparing reports for Treasury Board describing the methods they will use to implement employment equity within their organizations.

The plans will be implemented over the next three-year period.

Canada-Israel foreign ministers discuss common concerns

Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Yitzhak Shamir of Israel made his first visit to Canada, March 13 to 18, at the invitation of Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark.

In his official visit to Ottawa, March 13-14 Mr. Shamir met with Mr. Clark, Governor General Jeanne Sauvé, Liberal Leader John Turner and New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent. He met with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on March 15, after Mr. Mulroney returned from Moscow where he attended Konstantin Chernenko's funeral.

In Canada Mr. Shamir also attended a number of private meetings and public rallies in Montreal and Toronto including a talk with new Ontario Premier Frank Miller, before returning to Israel.

Mr. Shamir, who will become prime minister of Israel next year under an agreement between his Likud bloc and the Labour Party, said the trip will help to enhance the development of a close relationship between Canada and Israel.

In a speech to the Canada-Israel Committee, Mr. Clark touched on a number of issues of concern to both countries, many of which were discussed by the two ministers.

Human rights

Mr. Clark said that during the fortieth anniversary of the defeat of Nazism in Europe, Canada "remembers respectfully the millions of Jews who died in the holocaust". He

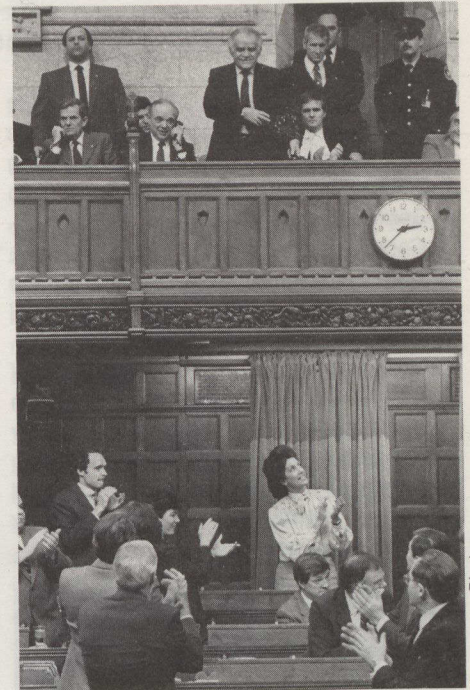
indicated that "in keeping with Canada's longstanding efforts to protect the civil rights of Canadians and our practice to speak out forcefully on human rights issues internationally", a commission of inquiry on war criminals, headed by Quebec Superior Court Justice Jules Dechenes, was recently set up by the government.

The two ministers exchanged views on the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union and agreed on the gravity of the situation and the need to use every available avenue to urge the Soviet Union to permit the emigration of Jews who wish to leave the country. In that context, Mr. Clark referred to the Experts Meeting on Human Rights, as part of the continuing process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation (CSCE) in Europe, to be held in Ottawa starting on May 7. This will be the first CSCE meeting exclusively devoted to human rights, and the first held in North America.

Middle East concerns

With respect to the situation in the Middle East the ministers said they achieved a good understanding of each other's views.

Mr. Clark said Canadians welcome Israel's announced intentions to withdraw completely its forces from Lebanon. He stressed that the Canadian government will continue to contribute in any way possible to the search for a lasting peaceful settlement "based on the legitimate rights of both sides:



The foreign minister from Israel (centre top) receives a standing ovation in the Speakers Gallery of the House of Commons.

Israel's to secure and recognized boundaries and the Palestinians right to a homeland within a clearly defined territory, the West Bank and Gaza Strip".

Bilateral agreements

Mr. Clark said the Canadian government "will work to strengthen the reciprocal relationship between Canada and Israel". To this end Minister for Communications Marcel Masse signed a video and film co-production agreement with Israel, on March 18 to assist the film industries of both countries. In addition negotiations will begin this month on the request by El Al to extend its services in Canada to Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

Increased trade

"We are also working hard at enhancing trade between Canada and Israel," said Mr. Clark. He added that the government has established a particular program for Israel, called Israel Technomart '85, under the Export '85 umbrella.

"It is planned, under this program to increase contact between our respective private sectors, that a Canadian trade mission will travel to Israel in June and later in the year that an Israeli delegation will come to Canada," said Mr. Clark.

In response to an invitation by Mr. Shamir, the minister for external affairs will visit Israel in the context of a trip he will make to the Middle East this fall to obtain first-hand impressions of the region.



Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark (left) meets with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir during his visit to Canada in March.

Canapress Photos

Canadian computer companies at CeBIT 85

Nineteen Canadian firms that offer some of the world's finest integrated electronic office system products will be exhibiting at CeBIT 85 in Hanover, Federal Republic of Germany, April 17-24.

Canada's very large and expanding computer industry is an important part of the country's economy and enjoys substantial markets within the country and internationally. Growing at an estimated rate of about 15-20 per cent per year, revenues in the industry for 1983 were approximately \$5.5 billion retail for computers and office machines. Computer services accounted for an additional total of approximately \$1.4 billion revenue.



Canada's largest manufacturer of noise reduction covers, Trigild Limited, makes more than 120 models.

Canada is the world's eighth largest exporter of computing equipment with more than 125 companies marketing their products. In 1983, 90 per cent of domestic computer production, worth more than \$1 billion, was exported.

In the Canadian hardware sector, a growing number of Canadian-owned firms are successfully establishing themselves in the marketplace. They have developed capabilities in software, data communications, videotex, and specialized hardware products, especially in the areas of terminal equipment and small business systems.

In the services sub-sector, the industry provides a diverse range of systems design services, data processing by service bureaus, on-line data bases, consulting and custom software. Some 90 per cent of these companies are Canadian-owned.

Innovation: a specialty

Some Canadian-owned computer firms have concentrated on the design and manufacture of innovative products for which the need has not been met elsewhere. In general, these products cover a wide range of applications, and most incorporate the latest advances in microprocessors. Many of them have been very successful in the international marketplace.

In the design and manufacture of word processing systems Canada has received a great deal of international recognition with products sold in more than 80 countries. Suppliers are now moving into integrated electronic office systems.

A number of Canadian manufacturers of intelligent computer terminals export their products for a variety of needs. Some terminals are particularly suited to graphics, while others are geared toward computer-aided learning and industrial data collection.

Canadian suppliers are also very active in the field of CAD/CAM (computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing) graphics with specialized terminals and software languages.

Additional systems and services

Some other recognized Canadian developments are: data communications products to link computers to different data networks, including packet switching; custom-designed on-line computer systems for banks, fleet management, hospitals, stockbrokers, mapmaking and retailing applications; software packages in data management, file retrieval, and "user-friendly" software productivity tools; desktop microprocessors for financial management applications in small businesses; and specialized data bases for quick reference to financial, legal and literary areas, economics, current events and other subjects.

Canadian-designed microcomputers are capable of receiving a wide variety of software services through cable television networks. With this technology, it is possible to create a communications network that provides home computer users access to large computer data bases at a small cost relative to existing distribution methods.

Canadian companies offer a diversified range of capabilities covering all aspects of business, industry and government.



The versatile KD500G Terminal by Keynote Computer Products is described as basically four terminals in one.



Mobile Data International is the world's leading supplier of mobile data sub-systems that allow radio communication of digital information.

Studies in Southern Africa

Minister for External Relations Monique Vézina has announced that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will undertake two studies in Southern Africa: one which will look into retraining trained agricultural researchers and extension workers in the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) region; and the other on transportation and communications systems in the area.

The agricultural study, which is expected to take 12 months and cost \$400 000, is important as agriculture is the chief economic activity in the region and increased numbers of researchers and extension workers will be required to cope with the problems caused by population pressures and the continuing drought, said Mrs. Vézina. "One potential benefit of the study is that it may point to ways in which women may fill more of the SADCC region's needs for human resources in both agriculture extension and research," she said.

Under the project transportation and communications study, estimated at \$6 million, Canada will provide technical services to the Southern Africa Transport and Communications Commission (SATCC), including a resident consultant in Mozambique, for three years. "The study will analyze current and potential problems in the systems, undertake feasibility studies and provide seminars and training programs," said Mrs. Vézina.

SADCC is a regional organization of nine countries in Southern Africa — Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — committed to accelerated economic development through regional integration and self-reliance.

Visitor from Argentina

Minister of Public Works and Services of Argentina Roque Carranza paid an official visit to Canada from March 3-6.

Mr. Carranza is one of the most senior ministers in Argentina's new democratic government with responsibility for energy, transportation, and communications.

While in Canada, Mr. Carranza met with officials in both the public and private sectors to discuss trade and industrial cooperation between Canada and Argentina. Areas of special interest to Canadian companies included hydroelectric projects, gas pipelines, grain handling, railway and port modernization, and communications.



The Cognos Limited product line includes POWERHOUSE, a fourth generation dictionary-driven language for development business applications that includes QUICK, a screen processor; QUIZ, a report writer; QTP, a volume transaction processor; and DICTIONARY PLUS..

Participants from across the country

The computer companies from Canada and their products scheduled for the CeBIT 85 exhibition are:

- Advanced Business Computer Systems International Inc. of Windsor, Ontario — computerized retail and advanced communications systems;
- Anteus Telecommunications Inc. of Nepean, Ontario — terminal concentrators/pads, data concentrators/switches and nodes suitable for X.25 packet-switched networks;
- Alis of Saint-Laurent, Québec — advanced computer technology adapted to the Arabic language;
- Cognos Limited of Ottawa, Ontario — specialized software products for minicomputers;
- Comptec International Limited of Burnaby, British Columbia — plastic keypad technology and components for computer peripheral equipment;
- Concord Data Limited of Toronto, Ontario — touch screen digitizers;
- Electrohome Limited of Kitchener, Ontario — colour and monochrome data projection monitors for data processing, training and education, presentation graphics and teleconferencing;
- Gandalf Technologies Inc. of Nepean — digital data communications equipment;
- Human Computing Resources Corp. of Toronto — Unix software products, applications, systems consulting and interactive computer graphics;
- Keynote Computer Products Inc. of Waterloo, Ontario — text and graphics computer terminals;
- Mobile Data International Inc. of Richmond, British Columbia — microprocessor-based data sub-systems with mobile terminals and base equipment to communicate digital information by radio;
- Nelma Data Corporation of Mississauga, Ontario — microcomputers, telephone-based computers, shared resource workstations and CRT terminals;
- Netron Inc. of Downsview, Ontario — Computer Aided Programming (CAP) and conversion services;
- SR Systems Inc. of Saint-Laurent — microprocessor-based packet-network access switching and control systems;
- Trigild Limited of Mississauga — "Acousticover" noise reduction covers for computer and word processing printers;
- Unican Magnetics Inc. of Calgary, Alberta — floppy disks for most microcomputers;
- UX Software, Inc. of Toronto — UNIX-system software house marketing UX-Basic for scientific and business applications;
- Westinghouse Canada Inc. of Burlington, Ontario — video display terminals, communications controllers and concentrators; and
- Xicom Technologies Corp. of Ottawa — the 3270 SNA MicroNode communications software package.

Anniversary of multilingual book service

The Multilingual Biblioservice (MBS) of the National Library of Canada is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.

This unique service makes books in 27 languages available to all Canadians.

The service, located in Ottawa, selects, purchases and catalogues a large assortment of books in the various languages and sends them in bulk shipments to regional deposit centres where they are made available to local libraries. Patrons cannot order specific titles, but they can ask for leisure reading in the language of their choice in such categories as fiction, children's books, biography, history, art, folklore, travel and crafts.

The Multilingual Biblioservice distributes about 30 000 books a year and now has a collection of more than 260 000 books in circulation.

Many of the books are selected from bibliographies, trade publications, journals

and other sources. Most of the material is popular like contemporary fiction, children's literature, and subjects such as biographies and folklore. Classics with wide appeal are also acquired, as are translations of works by Canadian authors.

In addition to distributing books, the MBS main office in Ottawa maintains a small reference collection on ethnocultural groups and their activities as well as a collection of material on library services to linguistic minorities around the world.

The concept of a MBS for Canadians was developed in the early 1970s and the Multilingual Biblioservice began operation as a division of the National Library of Canada in the fall of 1974.

Canada was the first country to establish such a service on a nation-wide scale, but other countries have followed the Canadian example and are working quickly to build their multilingual collections.

Stamps honour women's rights activists

Canada Post will issue two domestic-rate stamps on April 17 featuring two Canadian women, Thérèse Casgrain and Emily Murphy, who were very active in the fight for women's rights.

Chairman of the Board of Canada Post Corporation René J. Marin, said that "because April 17 marks the day that equality rights enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms become effective, it is only fitting that we have chosen that day to commemorate the valiant efforts of these two champions of women's rights". He added that the stamps will also serve as reminders that the United Nations' Decade for Women, which is coming to a close in 1985, was proclaimed with a view to eliminating discrimination against women everywhere, for all times.



Thérèse Casgrain was born in 1896 in Montreal. She founded the *Ligue des droits de la femme* (League for Women's Rights) in 1920 which was active in working on problems affecting women, including their right to vote in Quebec. After more than a decade of repeated petitioning of the Quebec National Assembly, the right to vote was granted in 1940.

Thérèse Casgrain subsequently worked for many other social and political causes and represented Canada outside the country on many occasions. She was appointed to the Senate in 1970 and retired the next year. She died in 1981.

Emily Murphy was born in Cookstown, Ontario, in 1868. As a journalist and novelist, she wrote under the pseudonym Janey Canuck. She was appointed judge of the Edmonton Women's Court in 1916 and thus became the first woman magistrate in the British Empire.

Mrs. Murphy and four other women were instrumental in the "Persons' Case", which resulted, in 1929, in a decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to reverse the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling that women were "not legally persons". She lobbied for the establishment of mental health clinics in Alberta and was successful in 1930. She wrote an important report on the drug trade in Canada, that was published in 1922, and a book on birth control. She died on October 26, 1933.

Portraits of Emily Murphy and Thérèse Casgrain painted by Muriel Wood of Toronto, appear in the design of the stamps with background sketches representing the principal concerns of their careers. Ralph Tibbles was responsible for art direction and typography.



Curling champs

The North Vancouver women's curling team with skip Linda Moore, third Lindsay Sparkes, second Debbie Jones and lead Laurie Carney, won the 1985 world women's curling championship in Jonkoping, Sweden, beating the team from Scotland 5-2 in their final of ten games.

It is the second year in a row that a Canadian team has won the title and it is the first time in the seven-year history of the women's world championship that a country has won titles in successive years. Connie Laliberte's Winnipeg foursome won the title in 1984.

The 1985 champion Canadian team played the same style of game against Scotland that led them undefeated through their district and provincial playoffs, the national finals in Winnipeg and the first seven games of the round robin in Sweden. They lost two games prior to the final.

Junior winners

The Canadian team skipped by Bob Ursel, with third Brent Mendalla, second Gerald Chick and lead Mike Ursel, also won the world junior men's curling championship held in Perth, Scotland.

It was the fifth world title for Canada in the 11-year history of the men's junior championship. Other Canadian champions were Paul Gowsell, 1976 and 1978; Bill Jenkins, 1977; and John Base, 1983.

Bob Ursel, whose Manitoba rink finished in a first-place tie with Scotland in the round-robin portion of the 1985 championship, came through with pressure shots in the tenth and eleventh ends to lead Canada to a 6-5 victory over Switzerland in the final.

Kanata: A 'city of the future'

The city of Kanata has been invited to join 17 other cities around the world in setting up an international organization, tentatively called "Cities of the Future".

Mayor Marianne Wilkinson, who attended the inaugural meeting in Grenoble, France, said the organization is geared towards cities involved in the high-technology industry and is aimed at establishing an international network of "forward-thinking cities". She said the association could greatly improve the opportunities for local businesses abroad, and encourage foreign companies to set up in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

Representatives from Montreal and cities in the US, Israel, India, Hong Kong, Australia, Norway and France attended the opening

Music for all tastes in Guelph festival



Entertainment for everyone is the main theme of the 1985 Guelph Spring Festival that was recently announced by the artistic director, Nicholas Goldschmidt.

The festival, which is in its eighteenth season, will run from April 26 to May 14 and will feature mainly Canadian performers.

Five of the 16 different programs are in the serious concert and operatic fields and about the same number are in the popular classical area. The remaining program consists of two ballets, two popular music concerts and two children's events.

Benjamin Britten's dramatic opera *The Prodigal Son*, which enjoyed overwhelming critical success in the 1969 festival, returns as a new production with James McLean as the prodigal son, Emile Belcourt as the tempter, Bruce Kelly as the elder son and Gary Relyea as the father. The opera will be directed by Robert Carson with Nicholas Goldschmidt as music director. Jim Plaxton will design the sets in the interior of Guelph's St. Andrew's Church.

Other serious concert events will include Brazilian pianist Jean-Louis Steuerman, in his Canadian debut recital, playing works



Ann Mortifee will be among the popular music features at the spring festival.

by Bach, Schumann, Berg and Scriabin; a choral concert featuring soprano Marvis Martin singing Schubert's Mass in G, with Glyn Evans, tenor, Ingemar Korjus, bass-baritone, the Opera in Concert Chorus, the Mainly Mozart Orchestra and conductor Nicholas Goldschmidt; the Canadian Chamber Ensemble, conducted by Raffi Armenian, with the winner of the 1985 Inter-



The Danny Grossman Dance Company will perform the premiere of a new work in Guelph.

national Bach Piano Competition as soloist, in a program that will include the premiere of André Prévo's Chamber Symphony; and a concert by the Edward Johnson Music Competition winners May 7, 1984.

Dance events include The Thai Classical Dancers and Musicians from Bangkok, in their North American debut and The Danny Grossman Dance Company, performing the world premiere of a new work, inspired by the music of Eric Satie and the writing of Colette. It may also include the first North American performance of another new work, which will have its premiere in Paris.

Recitals in the lighter classical vein will be given by soprano Stephanie Bogle and pianist Monica Gaylord. Katherine Terrell, soprano, Deborah Milsom, mezzo-soprano, Mark DuBois, tenor, and Mark Pedrotti, baritone, will offer An Evening of Gilbert and Sullivan with pianist Stephen Ralls and narrator Eric Donkin; and Janet Stubbs, mezzo-soprano, Peter Barnes, baritone, and Stephen Ralls and Bruce Ubukata, pianists, will present an Afternoon with Jane Austen, which was originally heard at the Toronto International Festival.

Popular music events include Rob McConnell and the Boss Brass, winners of 1984 Grammy award, with big band jazz and singer/songwriter Ann Mortifee.

The children's programs are, the Théâtre Sur Le Fil from France, with cut-out puppets, and Umiak, which takes the audience on an Inuit adventure. There will be English and French versions of both children's productions.

Awards for best plays

The Chalmers Award for best Canadian play of 1984 was presented to George Walker of Toronto, Ontario, for his comedy, *Criminals in Love*. The award includes a plaque and \$5 000.

The play, which opened in the fall of 1984, has been held over several times, and is still running at the Factory Theatre in Toronto. Mr. Walker characterizes *Criminals in Love* simply: "It's a play about two kids in love who have a dilemma, which becomes a crime, then a stupid crime, then a revolution."

Mr. Walker has written many hit plays, including *Zastrozzi*, *Theatre of The Film Noir*, *Beyond Mozambique* and *Better Living*, that have enjoyed rave reviews and sold-out houses in Canada, the US, England and Australia. He recently returned from Sydney, Australia where he directed a production of *Zastrozzi* that was so successful it was held over for an extended run.

Created by arts patron Floyd S. Chalmers in 1972, the Chalmers Award has been administered by the Ontario Arts Council since 1979. It is presented annually to the writer of the most outstanding play mounted in Toronto, as selected by the Toronto Drama Bench. There were more than 40 productions to select from this year.

Other awards of \$1 000 went to David French for *Salt-Water Moon*, John Krizanc for *Prague* and Sharon Pollock for *Doc*.

The winner of the Chalmers Children's Play Award was Colin Thomas of Vancouver. He received \$2 000 for his *One Thousand Cranes*, the story of a young Japanese girl's battle against radiation sickness in post-war Hiroshima. Runner-up prizes worth \$1 500 went to Robert Bellefeuille of Ottawa and Isabelle Cauchy of Vanier, Ontario, for *Le Nez*, based on a short story by Russian author Nicolai Gogol.

Also announced was the presentation to Marion André of the Toronto Drama Bench Award for distinguished contribution to Canadian theatre. Ms. André is the founder and outgoing artistic director of Theatre Plus and former artistic director of Montreal's Sadye Bronfman Theatre.

String quartet competition

The second Banff International String Quartet Competition will be held April 13 to 19, 1986 at The Banff Centre School of Fine Arts in Alberta.

Dr. Paul Fleck, president of The Banff Centre, said the first competition, held in April 1983 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the School of Fine Arts, was such an international success that it has been decided to make the competition an ongoing event to be held every three years.

The competition, the only one of its kind in North America, was recently elected to membership in the Federation of International Music Competitions, a UNESCO organization based in Geneva.

Quartets of any nationality whose members are under 35 are eligible to audition for participation in the competition. The winners of the competition will share \$30 000 in prize money, and the first-place winner will tour major Canadian cities during the 1986-87 concert season.

The jury for the 1986 competition will consist of seven members or former members of internationally renowned string quartets: Thomas Brandis (West Germany), Andrew Dawes (Canada), Felix Galimir (US), Raphael Hillyer (US), Sidney Griller (Britain), Jiri Novak (Czechoslovakia), and Japp Schroeder (the Netherlands).

News briefs

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark and Minister of Finance Michael Wilson have accepted the invitation to co-chair this year's meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It will take place in Paris, France, on April 11 and 12. Canada was a founding member of OECD when it was created in 1961 as a forum for discussion and consultation on matters of economic, trade, and development assistance policies. Its membership has since grown to 24 and includes all of Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the US, and Canada. Its work has also spread into a number of other areas including environmental policies, energy, manpower and social affairs, education, and science and technology policy.

Fisheries and Oceans Minister John Fraser has announced that a major conference on the latest advances in fisheries technology will be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, April 22-24. The Atlantic Fisheries Technology Conference is being sponsored by the federal/provincial Atlantic Fisheries Committee and will be attended by representatives in the fishing sector, including fishermen, processors and senior government officials. Its purpose is to inform key industry people about fishing technology currently available and future possibilities. It is the first conference of its kind organized by the federal and five Atlantic governments in more than 11 years.

Microtel Limited of Burnaby, British Columbia has secured a \$1.3-million contract to supply a network management system to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand. The Microtel System 51 will be used to gather data from generating and distribution stations as well as the private telephone network in Bangkok and remote locations throughout Thailand. Shipments of equipment have begun and are expected to be completed by April. The system is scheduled to be in service by 1986.

The first Global Learning Symposium, sponsored by the United Nations University, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, will be held in Toronto, April 28-May 1. It is designed to create new connections among leaders in the study of learning, now known as "Mathetics". Participants from more than 20 countries will attend the symposium. Further information can be obtained from Alan Thomas, Department of Adult Education, OISE, 252 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Canada, M5S 1V6.

Prime minister in Moscow

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney met with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' new secretary general of the Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev, when he attended the funeral services of former secretary general and president of the USSR Konstantin Chernenko in March. The official meeting between the prime minister and the new secretary general was held on March 14.

Mr. Mulroney said that Mr. Gorbachev referred to Canada as a neighbour and a friend and talked about his visit to Canada in 1983, his first foreign trip after becoming a member of the Politburo.



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (left) is greeted by Mikhail Gorbachev at the funeral services of Konstantin Chernenko in Moscow on March 13.

In addition to the meeting with Mr. Gorbachev in Moscow, Mr. Mulroney met with several of the leaders who will be attending the Bonn economic summit in May. They included British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French President François Mitterrand and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

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