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Canadian government increases funds to market Telidon



Telidon users can retrieve or insert information with calculator-like unit.

The federal government has announced that it will spend another \$27.5 million to help Telidon, Canada's two-way videotex technology, capture a significant share of world markets.

In making the announcement, Communications Minister Francis Fox said the additional funding "will be to assure the existence of a commercially viable videotex industry in Canada with a capability to compete in export markets. With this program and industry co-operation, we expect to see more than 12,000 Telidon terminals in use within a year".

The funding for the Telidon program will be spent over the next two years, \$17.2 million in the first and \$10.2 million in the second.

Funding for terminals

The increased federal funding will be used to manufacture about 6,000 Telidon terminals in the next year to be loaned to industry to start operational systems or

conduct market trials. The loans will be subject to the purchase of at least an equal number of terminals and to the advantages offered in their proposals for employment of the terminals.

The funds will also go into product research and development to further develop the Telidon technology, reduce the price and expand its capabilities. Examples include completion of the development of the VLSI (very large scale integrated) low-cost terminals, captioning for the deaf adaptors, person-to-person communications hardware and improved software.

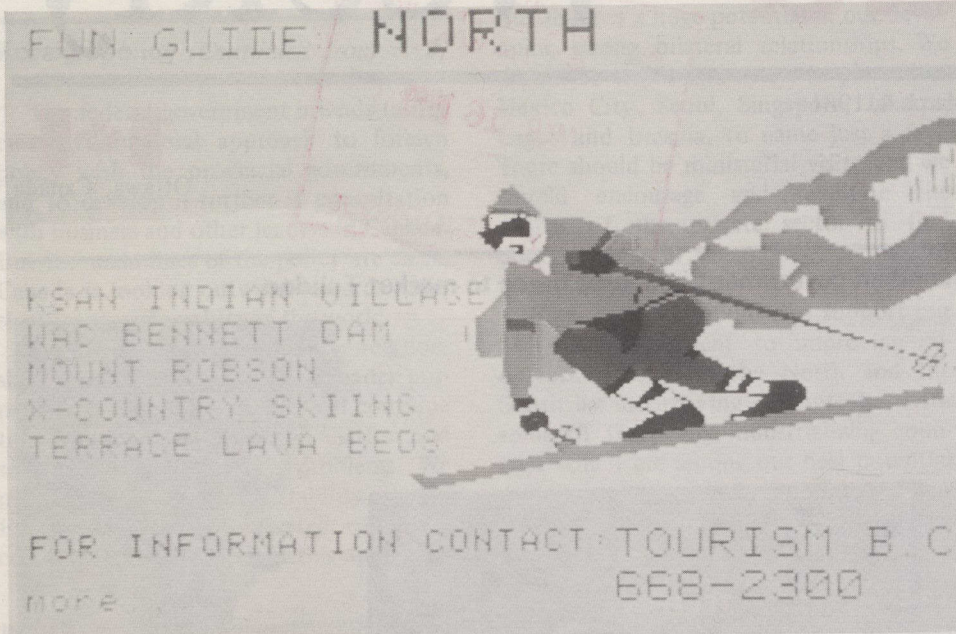
Support for certain important national and international Telidon systems, including a national broadcast teletext service in both languages will also be provided.

The fund will also contribute to market development and standards, and public interest initiatives to permit disadvantaged groups lacking resources — minor-



NOVA SCOTIA

Mar. 4/81



The system allows users to transmit graphic, tonal or textual information.

ities, disabled, consumers — to exploit the Telidon potential as a communications medium.

“The Telidon program is an investment in Canada’s high technology future,” said Mr. Fox. Market forecasts by industry consultants have estimated that from one to four million videotex terminals could be installed in Canada in this decade, representing some \$1 billion to Canada’s electronic manufacturing industry.

According to government estimates, ten times that figure could accrue to the whole Telidon industry which comprises: — a hardware manufacturing industry to provide system terminals, computers, communications and associated software; — an electronic publishing or information-providing industry; — a videotex distribution industry; and — a public data base operating industry.

“The federal government and Canadian industry believe the electronic information industry has the potential of becoming a major sector of the Canadian economy,” said Mr. Fox.

The development of Telidon was first announced in August 1978. Since then, the government has committed \$12.6 million to the Telidon program. Canadian industry has committed more than four times as much.

U.S. companies pick system

The Times Mirror Company of California recently selected Telidon for a major videotex field trial in the Los Angeles area.

Telidon Videotex Systems, Incorpo-

rated, a company established by Infomart to sell Canadian-developed Telidon videotex systems to the U.S. market, will supply a complete turnkey system under an initial contract worth over \$1 million.

The field trial is scheduled to start late in 1981 and will include 200 terminals to be installed in homes in Los Angeles and Orange counties. The *Los Angeles Times* and other publishing subsidiaries of Times Mirror are expected to be major information providers.

The Times Mirror videotex system will operate simultaneously over both telephone and two-way cable networks.

In addition, Time Incorporated of New York has announced that it will introduce later this year a satellite-delivered teletext service using Canada’s Telidon technology.

Michael Luftman, a public relations officer for Time, said the communications conglomerate picked the Telidon system because it offered greater editorial flexibility and superior graphics than the competing French and British systems.

The planned service will be delivered by satellite. The first field trial will involve distribution to a cable system owned by Time’s subsidiary, American Television and Communications Corporation of Englewood, Colorado, for in-home use. The service will be offered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Subscribers to the service would be able to gain access to a wide range of printed information on their television sets, including the editorial content of

Time’s seven magazines, its Washington *Star* newspaper, its Time-Life books, and services from other news organizations.

Other sales pending

Telidon has also been sold to other projects in the U.S., Venezuela and elsewhere and more sales are pending.

The major marketing push behind Canada’s Telidon system is being provided by Infomart, a joint venture of two of Canada’s largest publishing/communications companies, Torstar Corporation and Southam Inc. Infomart and its U.S. company are licensed by the Canadian government to promote and develop the commercial potential of Telidon videotex technology worldwide.

In November 1980, the technology became one of three recognized videotex standards by the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee, the United Nations Agency responsible for setting international telecommunications standards.

Users of the Telidon system are able to retrieve, by phone or interactive cable, information stored in computer data bases and have it displayed on modified TV receivers or business video terminals. Telidon has a capability allowing users to transmit graphic, tonal or textual information to each other or to a data bank. Connected to the TV is a pushbutton unit like a pocket calculator or a keyboard unit like a typewriter for retrieving or inserting information. Telidon equipment is being manufactured by Canadian companies such as Electrohome Limited of Kitchener, Ontario; Northern Telecom of Montreal; SED Systems Incorporated of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Microtel Pacific of Vancouver and Norpak Limited of Pakenham, Ontario.

Canada-Japan banking pact

Canada and Japan have confirmed an agreement to open their doors to each other’s commercial banks following talks recently in Tokyo, reports the *Canadian Press*.

The agreement allows Japanese banks to set up full banking subsidiaries in Canada, permitted as a result of the new Bank Act, while Canadian banks will be allowed to set up branches in Japan.

At present, Canadian banks have only representative offices in Japan, similar to the status of 11 Japanese banks in Canada.

Human rights conference focuses on legislation

A federal-provincial ministerial conference on human rights was held in Ottawa, last month, to focus on possible improvements in federal and provincial legislation to ensure that domestic human rights legislation conforms to United Nations human rights agreements acceded to by Canada.

It was the second conference of human rights ministers. The first conference was held in Ottawa in December 1975. The 1975 meeting paved the way for Canada's accession in 1976 to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to its Optional Protocol, and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The covenants require that states that have acceded to them recognize and protect a wide range of human rights. Federal-provincial-territorial co-operation is a necessary part of the implementation of the covenants by each of the governments.

Some of the areas considered by the federal and provincial ministers were earlier identified by the United Nations Human Rights Committee when it considered Canada's first report on implementation of this covenant in March 1980. Some of the main areas of discussion were: additional prohibited grounds of discrimination; emergencies legislation; compensation of victims of unlawful arrest or detention; compensation of victims of judicial error; affirmative action and special support programs; and the International Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

Discrimination of disabled

The ministers recognized the importance of providing protection against discrimination on the basis of physical disability and that 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons, is a good occasion to consider what further steps could be taken. They also discussed the possible inclusion of mental disability as a prohibited ground of discrimination. The ministers also examined the possible prohibition of discrimination on the basis of political opinion in the light of the experience of some governments.

The federal government affirmed that a new and more detailed federal emergencies act that could incorporate the human rights safeguards set out in the covenant

may be desirable. A conference of ministers responsible for emergency planning is scheduled for May to consider this matter further.

The conference examined the rights of citizens to compensation for unlawful arrest or detention. There was general agreement that laws in effect in Canada currently provide a measure of protection. Possible ways of increasing the level of protection were discussed. The ministers said they were generally supportive of providing compensation for victims of judicial error in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Affirmative action

Various approaches to affirmative action and special support programs were examined, in particular as they relate to employment. The ministers agreed on improving equal access to employment through co-operative action by the various levels of government. They said they would encourage employers and unions to review their procedures to ensure equal opportunity in the work place. The ministers asked their respective officials through the Continuing Committee of Officials responsible for Human Rights to prepare and submit periodic reports on the status of affirmative action and special support programs across Canada.

Last year federal and provincial governments agreed that Canada should sign the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. As a subsequent step to the signing, which took place in Copenhagen in July 1980, the ministers considered the next steps that should be taken towards ratification of the convention. In this connection, they asked that the Continuing Committee of Officials undertake the necessary study relating to possible ratification and subsequent implementation by Canada of the convention.

The Continuing Committee of Officials was also asked to prepare and submit to ministers periodic reports on emerging areas of human rights and of new prescribed grounds of discrimination.

Resolution on racism

The ministers unanimously endorsed a resolution calling upon all Canadians to

reject unequivocally the racist principles articulated by persons associated with organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan. Further, they emphasized that theories of white supremacy and racial superiority are scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous, and have no place in Canadian society.

They said they would be vigilant with regard to all manifestations of racism, and would effectively enforce the provisions of the criminal law and anti-discrimination legislation to counter those manifestations whether they emanate from the Ku Klux Klan or any such group.

Loan for Barbados project

Canada is providing Barbados with a \$6.5-million loan to further develop the island's water supply system to reach 98 per cent of all households by 1985.

A loan agreement between the two countries was signed recently in Bridgetown, Barbados, by Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan and the Prime Minister of Barbados J.M.G. Adams.

Barbados will contribute \$6.09 million in design, engineering, construction, management, labour and other local costs to what is the third five-year phase of the water development program.

The Canadian loan funds will cover the cost of Canadian pipe, fittings, mechanical and electrical equipment, water tanks, related supplies and shipping.

The current Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) project brings Canada's contributions to the three phases of the project to \$12.1 million over the past ten years.

In the first two phases Canada provided \$5.6 million in supplies and equipment. The work included the laying of 162 miles of various sizes of water mains, construction of seven reservoirs which increased storage capacity from nine million to 22.6 million gallons, seven pumping stations, improvements in communications and general water management.

Last February, CIDA experts carried out an evaluation of water supply improvements since 1968 and concluded that water-borne diseases had decreased and standards of hygiene rose in the areas serviced in the first two phases. (Occurrence of typhoid was reduced from 5.5 per 1,000 persons to 0.8; amoebic dysentery and water-borne gastroenteritis in areas serviced were eradicated.)

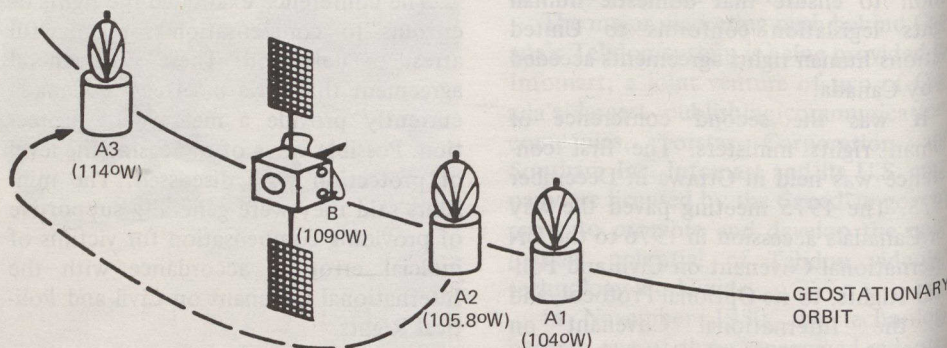
Satellite shuffle — a first

Telesat Canada recently moved one of its satellites, 5,300 kilometres through space to collocate on station with another satellite — the first time such a manoeuvre has been attempted with domestic communications satellites.

The 28-day procedure, which put the *Anik-A2* satellite back into operation, involved moving the *A2* through space and slowing it down to station it next to the new *Anik-A3* satellite. The two satellites are stationed in a 60-kilometre orbital box rotating around each other. During the entire manoeuvre the satellite was under command by Telesat's Satellite Control Centre in Ottawa and the main earth station at Allan Park, Ontario.

With recent new applications of satellite telecommunications, plus increasing demands for channels for video broadcast and other satellite services, all available channels on Telesat's satellites are now in commercial service or committed to customers under firm orders.

By taking advantage of the fact that the *Anik A* series of satellites are identical and their channels are tuned to the same frequencies, the operation will allow Telesat to use the best channels on each satellite to provide a greater number of



Move of Telesat's satellite Anik-A2 to collocate with Anik-A3.

operating channels for immediate service and offer extra protection for other channels on *Anik-A3*.

With the best channels on each satellite turned on, the new *Anik-A2/A3* station will operate as if the channels on each satellite were part of a single satellite. The manoeuvre will also avoid any time-consuming expense of adjusting ground antennas throughout Canada aimed at *Anik-A3*.

The collocation will thus alleviate the shortage of channels in the 6/4 gigahertz (GHz) frequency band which will exist until the launch of the larger 24 channel *Anik-D* satellite in August 1982.

The 16 channel *Anik-C1* satellite, operating in the 14/12 GHz frequency band, will also be launched in 1982 and this will further ensure that there is adequate satellite capacity for present and future demands.

Winter scuba diving in B.C.

Scuba divers, in increasing numbers, have been discovering a northern diving mecca in British Columbia. It is a fjord-riddled coastline protected by wooded and snow-capped islands and overflowing with marine life.

This "emerald sea" is British Columbia's Strait of Georgia, tempered by the Japanese current to a warm 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit) average winter temperature, not much colder than the waters of California in spite of its northerly latitude.

The Strait is home to the world's largest octopuses, nudibranchs over 30 centimetres in length, sea stars over one metre in diameter, more than 5,000 species of invertebrates, 330 species of fish, 400 species of seaweed and more than 80 varieties of shallow-water starfish. The nutrient-rich waters of the Strait are said to be second only to the Red Sea for abundant sea life.

"The waters are richer than tropical

waters and even though the bizarre colouration of tropical sea life isn't there, northern sea life is much, much more brilliant and fascinating than many people would expect," said Neil McDaniel, editor of *Diver* magazine, published in Vancouver.

Tourists increasing

When Beach Gardens Resort at Powell River, 136 kilometres north of Vancouver, offered its first diving packages in 1978, owner Jim Price expected 400 bookings. He got 3,400. This year he expects 6,000 bookings.

Other resorts are offering their own diving packages which include a variety of cave, wreck, reef and tidal current diving, as well as courses in underwater photography and advanced marine identification.

Discovery Inn, at Campbell River, has a combined ski-scuba package, not impossible in a country where good dive sites and good skiing are only an hour away from each other.

The best diving season extends from November to March when the thick plankton and kelp forests die off, leaving a visibility that extends to 30 metres in some places, rivalling that of the Caribbean.

While water is not tropical, a good quality quarter-inch wet suit is adequate protection against the cold, says McDaniel, and he finds that with a neoprene dry suit and pile underwear he can do two-hour dives with a three-hour surface interval without getting chilled.

Above the water, the winter climate is a little brisk, sometimes rainy, but mild enough for tennis, says Murray Hamilton of Beach Gardens. The average winter air temperature on the southern coast of British Columbia is 15 degrees Celsius (55-60 degrees Fahrenheit) with one or two light snowfalls a year.

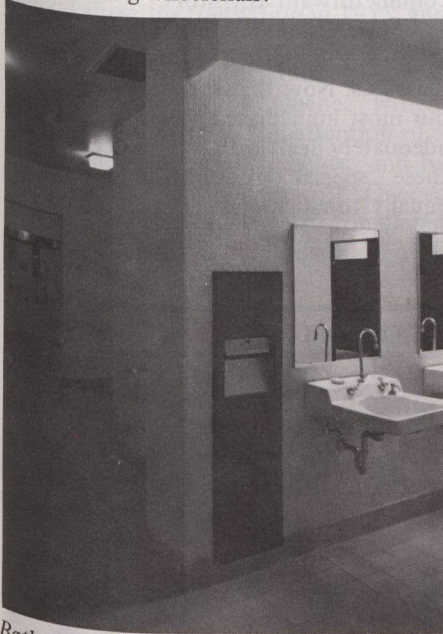
It is partly the unusual mixture of a climate and terrain that offers diving, skiing, tennis and even golf in one area on one holiday that attracts a lot of divers to British Columbia.

Fitness centre for disabled

The Variety Village Sport and Fitness Facility, currently under construction in Toronto, is considered to be the first such centre in the world designed to overcome the problems of handicapped athletes. Although the centre was opened officially for a recent fund-raising telethon, it will not be ready for use until later this month.

The complex is designed to encompass a wide range of physical handicaps.

A bar circles the area where a track will soon be poured for blind runners so they can touch it as they run by themselves. The track itself will be made of a new synthetic polymer, designed to cushion the jars to a runner with an artificial leg but made durable enough to withstand a racing wheelchair.



Bathrooms have flat-bottomed sinks and extra wide doors.

The lights in the fieldhouse are focused upward to prevent them from shining in the eye of a court sport player with a seeing problem. Special acoustic muffling has been added to the ceiling to cut down on echoes which might resound in the hearing aids of deaf athletes.

Surrounding the floor of the court area is a see-through curtain to prevent balls from escaping. When reinforced by a secondary net it also will prevent archers — archery is one of the 40 sports which can be played in or near the complex — from piercing an unwary runner.

The basketball backstops on the three-court-long playing area can be raised or



Fieldhouse, when finished, will have five-lane track and portable running rail.

lowered to suit the handicaps of the players. There are numerous plugs in the walls of the fieldhouse to recharge battery-operated wheelchairs.

To overcome the mobility problem the complex has put in a number of special features. Two outside lifts will raise and lower wheelchairs coming off buses. The outside sidewalks are heated so there will be no slipping and sliding on ice.

Guide rails

Inside, the main connecting floors have a slightly bumpy surface to guide the blind.



Wooden protectors in halls keep wheelchairs from bumping into wall.

A guide rail and a wooden protector to keep wheelchairs from bumping into the walls are in each corridor. There are no curbs or steps or inclines anywhere.

Bathrooms come complete with shower heads, handles, sinks of various heights. A wheelchair can slip under the specially designed flat-bottomed sinks and through the extra-wide lavatory doors. A special room has been provided for spina bifida victims — the second most common disability in the country — to change their colostomy sacs.

Telephone lowered

Telephones are wheelchair height and in case of fire a stroboscopic light signals to the deaf that the building must be evacuated. The most important athletic equipment of many disabled people — their wheelchairs — will be serviced by



Entrance has permanent ramps and canopy with overhead heating.

Variety Village's users themselves in a room donated for that purpose by wheelchair manufacturer Everest and Jennings.

Although its programs are specifically aimed to develop athletic and physical prowess in disabled young people from ages five to 22, Variety Village also hopes to provide a place where the able-bodied and the handicapped will play and exercise together. The second group it aims to serve are poor children.

The complex also includes a 30-bed sleeping area for groups wishing to have intensive training sessions at Variety Village.

Applied Photography Ltd. photos

Policies on foreign students studied

The Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) has established a commission to study the policies of Canadian universities and colleges on foreign students.

The 12-person commission will present recommendations to Canadian universities and colleges concerning the direction and content of policies on foreign students. The commission, which will work over the next six months, will consult with other Canadian organizations and agencies which are involved in education or international affairs.

Heroism lauded

Fifteen Canadians, in recognition of their acts of heroism, will receive bravery decorations from Governor-General Edward Schreyer at a ceremony at Rideau Hall, March 10. Two Stars of Courage and 13 Medals of Bravery will be presented.

The two recipients of the Stars of Courage are Sharon O'Brien of Saint John, New Brunswick and Dr. Hugh Cameron of Toronto.

On December 6, 1979, Mrs. O'Brien rescued four-year-old Charles Sutton from drowning in the St. John River. Charles and Mrs. O'Brien's son were playing in a rowboat on the shore of the river when it was cast adrift by a high wind; the boys panicked and leapt into the water. Mrs. O'Brien's son drowned before she was able to swim out to the children's rescue; she saved Charles.

On New Year's day in 1980, Dr. Cameron and William Endress of Toronto (who will be awarded a Medal of Bravery) rescued Glen Ross who had broken through the ice while skating with a friend on Rice Lake, Ontario. Only Mr. Ross stayed afloat; his friend, John MacDonald drowned. Hearing cries for help, Dr. Cameron called upon Mr. Endress for assistance. While Mr. Endress ran to get a life-jacket, Dr. Cameron broke the ice and swam out to Mr. Ross, who grasped him so tightly around the neck that in order to loosen the grip, he had to dive under. With the life-jacket that Mr. Endress brought, the two men were able to save Mr. Ross.

There are three Canadian decorations for Bravery: the Cross of Valour, the Star of Courage and the Medal of Bravery.

Special immigration measures extended for earthquake victims

Special measures introduced in December to assist Italian earthquake victims are being extended to include family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents not previously covered, Canada Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced.

The measures will also allow between 500 to 700 victims who are now in Canada as visitors to apply for immigrant status from within Canada, and to work and be eligible for social services pending the processing of their applications.

The minister said that following the earthquake the immediate concern was to assist the close relatives of Canadian residents, but explained that it has now become clear that the movement will not be as large as was originally expected.

As of January 9, from a total of 990 applications submitted by Canadian residents on behalf of 2,293 relatives in Italy, 377 immigrant visas and 148 minister's permits had been issued. Immigration officials have been unable to contact some of the victims and others have indi-

cated that they wish to rebuild their lives in Italy.

Immediately following the earthquake, financial requirements for Canadians bringing in relatives were eased, the immigrant selection criteria were relaxed and the discretionary powers provided in the Immigration Act were fully utilized. Immigrant processing was speeded up and in most cases immigrant visas were issued within a few days. An immigration officer was stationed in Naples to be closer to the scene, and the Rome office advertized widely to locate relatives sponsored by Canadians. Persons not wanting to immigrate, or not able to wait for the outcome of immigrant processing, were assisted in coming forward as visitors.

"More distant relatives, such as cousins, have not benefited from these special measures. Now that the closer relatives — our most immediate concern — have been adequately dealt with, I have decided that these special measures should apply equally to all extended family members," said Mr. Axworthy.

Pipe band performs at "Canada Days" in California



The Pipes and Drums Band of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) play for tourists at Disneyland near Anaheim, California. While in California, the band also performed at San Diego for the annual "Maple Leaf Days" and in Los Angeles where they were greeted by the city council.

News of the arts

Canadian novelist dies

John Glassco, Canadian poet, novelist and translator died recently in Montreal at the age of 71.

Glassco was well-known for his refined sensibilities and dedication to literature. Among his best-known works are *Memoirs of Montparnasse*, the diary of his hedonistic experiences as a young man in Paris from 1929 to 1931; *Selected Poems*, for which he won the Governor General's Award in 1971; and *Harriet Marwood, Governess*, a mock-Victorian psychosexual romance first published under a pseudonym by Olympia Press in Paris in 1960.

Among his best-known translations are *The Complete Poems of St. Denys Garneau*, for which he won the Canada Council Prize for translation in 1975, and *Venus in Furs*, by Leopold von Sacher-Masoch in 1977. His translations of poems and novels by Quebec writers brought their work to the attention of a large English-Canadian audience, and he edited several anthologies of Quebec poetry in translation. He also completed Aubrey Beardsley's unfinished novel, *Under The Hill*, in 1959.

Dance festival planned for NAC

Eight Canadian dance companies will participate in a contemporary dance festival to be held at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, May 28-30.

The companies, which will work together for the first time, are: Anna Wyman Dance Theatre, Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada, Toronto Dance Theatre, Danny Grossman Dance Company, Le Groupe de la Place Royale and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens.

The show, involving 140 dancers, was arranged by the Canadian Association of Professional Dance Organizations, the National Arts Centre, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), the National Film Board (NFB) and the Canada Council.

The Canadian Dance Spectacular will include a gala performance the last night to draw special attention to the achievements of dance in Canada from both Canadian and foreign audiences. The final performance of the festival will be telecast live by the CBC in a two-hour special

directed by Norman Campbell, the Emmy award-winning producer of opera and ballet for CBC-TV.

In addition, the NFB, in co-operation with the Canada Council, has been preparing an hour-long documentary on dance training, rehearsal and the building of a dance company. The documentary is expected to have its *première* the final night of the festival.

Junos awarded

Anne Murray was a four-time winner at the Juno Awards ceremony held recently in Toronto.

The annual recognition of Canadian musical talent is sponsored by the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. The major Juno Award nominees are chosen on an album sales basis and the actual winners chosen on talent.

Miss Murray won awards for female vocalist of the year, country female vocalist, album of the year (*Greatest Hits*) and tied for single of the year (*Could I Have This Dance*) with rock group Martha and the Muffins (*Echo Beach*).

Bruce Cockburn won Junos for male vocalist of the year and folk artist of the year. The Good Brothers won in the

country music group category for the fifth successive year. Carole Pope of the rock group Rough Trade won the award for most promising female vocalist while Graham Shaw took the Juno for most promising male vocalist. Powder Blues won the most promising group award.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau attended the awards ceremony to present singer Joni Mitchell with the Hall of Fame award. She joins Guy Lombardo, Oscar Peterson, Hank Snow and Paul Anka as a member of the Hall of Fame.

Other Juno Award winners were:

- composer of the year: Eddie Schwartz (*Hit Me With Your Best Shot*);
- international album of the year: *The Wall* (Pink Floyd);
- international single of the year: *Another Brick in the Wall* (Pink Floyd);
- best children's album: *Singing 'n Swinging* (Sharon, Lois and Bram);
- group of the year: Prism;
- country male vocalist: Eddie Eastman;
- country group of the year: Good Brothers;
- instrumental artist: Frank Mills;
- best classical album: *Stravinsky - Chopin Ballads* (Arthur Ozolins);
- best jazz album: *Present Perfect* (Rob McConnell and Boss Brass);
- producer of the year: Gene Martynec;
- album graphics: Jeannette Hanna (*We Deliver*); and
- engineer of the year: Mike Jones.

Touring grants provided

A total of \$174,310 in grants to 14 artists and arts organizations were announced recently by the Canada Council. Among the artists and arts organizations which shared this amount, were:

The Scottish Baroque Ensemble, for its eastern Canadian tour in the spring of 1981, under the Touring Office's international program; Angèle Arsenault, for her western Canadian tour this spring to headline performing arts series for French-Canadian audiences in the west; the Manitoba Puppet Theatre, for its workshop series held last November in the Northwest Territories; British Columbia's Caravan Stage Company, to transport its horse-drawn theatre company to southwestern Ontario for a tour in the summer of 1981; and the Manitoba Theatre Centre, to consolidate touring circuit, throughout Manitoba and northwestern Ontario in February and March 1981.



CP Laserphoto

Singer Joni Mitchell holds the trophy presented to her by Prime Minister Trudeau after she was named to the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

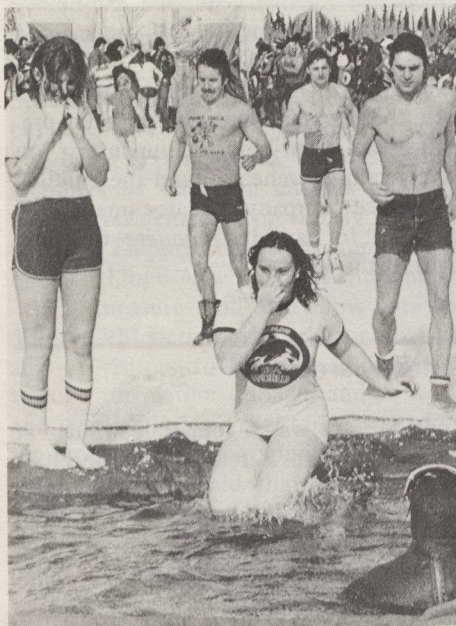
News briefs

The federal government recently held the first of six two-day opportunity shows called CONTACT 81 which will be held across Canada during 1981. The shows will bring together major Canadian prime contractors with small- and medium-sized industrial companies so that they will learn first hand of the sub-contracting opportunities available from manufacturing companies that serve as major suppliers to the federal government.

Canada has signed an agreement with Japan for reciprocal testing of electrical products such as frypans, kettles, irons and refrigerators. Under the agreement, Canadian goods will be tested in Canada for compliance with Japanese standards. Japan will similarly test its goods by Canadian standards.

The buoyant gold market of the last two years has created a boom business condition for the Canadian gold mining industry, says analyst D.R. James of Winnipeg. He said he expects a more subdued market for gold bullion after the volatile market of 1979-80 and views it as a "constructive environment for the Canadian gold group which is aggressively pursuing corporate development projects with its enhanced cash flow".

John P. Lewis, Chairman of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) visited Canada recently at the invitation of President of the Canadian International Development Agency Marcel Massé. During his visit to Ottawa, Mr. Lewis held discussions on CIDA aid mechanisms, development policies for the 1980s and various aspects of North-South relations. DAC was formed in 1961 to provide a meeting place where the 18 OECD members periodically review together both the



About 95 hardy souls took the icy plunge into the St. Mary's River in the Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, annual Bon Soo polar bear swim. Water was slightly above freezing and the air temperature was about -10 degrees celsius.

amount and the nature of their contributions to developing countries.

Following increases in January, the federal government has decreased the levies it charges on export crude oil. Effective immediately until further notice, its levy on heavy crude oil of Lloydminster and Wainwright-Vikings-Kinsella blends will decline to \$21.51 a barrel from \$23.21, which came into effect January 1. For most other designated heavy crude oils, the tax dropped to \$23.72 a barrel from \$25.43. For light crude oil and condensate, the levy was reduced to \$31.20 a barrel from \$34.70.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced the signing of a financing agreement providing up to \$12 million (U.S.) to support the \$28.5-million (U.S.) sale of an offshore drilling rig by Les Chantiers Davie Limitée (Davie) of Lauzon, Quebec, to Global Marine Drilling Company of Houston, Texas, U.S. The rig, the fifth of eight being built for Global Marine Drilling by Davie, is a mobile self-contained drilling platform that rises on hydraulic legs from the ocean floor. It will be primarily used in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and natural gas exploration drilling.

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has outlined measures aimed at phasing out some 2,4-D herbicide products. Last

October, Mr. Whelan announced that Agriculture Canada scientists had discovered that some types of the popular weedkiller were contaminated with dioxins.

Federal Commerce and Navigation Limited of Montreal, a privately owned shipping company with world-wide interests, plans to invest \$100 million in Abitibi-Price Inc. of Toronto. The acquisition would ultimately represent a 20 per cent interest in the world's largest newsprint maker. It will be Fednav's biggest investment outside the shipping industry.

A payout of close to \$235 million is forecast for the 1980-81 federal-provincial crop insurance program. The record payout is due largely to last year's drought in western Canada. About 114,000 farmers purchased crop insurance this year, compared to about 109,000 in 1979-80. Total premiums amounted to more than \$200 million.

Ontario Premier William Davis has called a provincial election for March 19. Mr. Davis, whose Conservatives hold 58 seats in the 125-seat Legislature, has been premier for ten years. The Ontario Liberal Party holds 34 seats in the Legislature, while the New Democratic Party have 33.

Labour Minister Gerald Regan has announced that funds totalling \$303,000 will be available in 1981-82 to independent unions not affiliated to a central labour organization and to individuals under Labour Canada's financial assistance program for labour education. The continuing program is designed primarily to enable union officers and members of labour organizations, to gain a comprehensive knowledge of the Canada's labour movement.

The Bank of Montreal plans to build a 25-storey provincial headquarters building in Winnipeg. Construction on the \$10-million building is to begin in 1981 with completion in 1983.

Bernie Galbraith thinks people will say he is "smarter than he looks" after becoming Canada's first "Superbrain" by outwitting more than 15,000 entries in a contest sponsored by the Mensa organization. Galbraith, a 37-year-old education supervisor from Edmonton, scoured through quiz books for months to prepare for the two-hour final contest of 200 questions. Galbraith won a two-week paid vacation to Greece for winning the title.

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