

# EA CIC Canada Weekly

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Ottawa, Canada.



## The Christmas mosaic in Canada

Christmas is a delightfully predictable festival in Canada. Each year, families gather to eat the traditional food, follow the same rituals and experience the same joy as they did in previous years.

### Christmas ships

People of many origins living in the harbour cities of Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia, are accustomed to seeing "Christmas ships" during the festive season. The Vancouver carol ship, decked in lights with a Christmas tree at the masthead, carries bell-ringers and children's choirs. Following is a flotilla of brightly decorated smaller craft — tugs, fishing boats, fireboats and private yachts. For years, this traditional procession of boats has travelled the waterways of Greater Vancouver and its music is clearly heard on shore.

Victoria's "Santa Ship", which sets sail in mid-December, charts a route through the United States and Canadian Gulf Islands, distributing toys to children in the small communities.

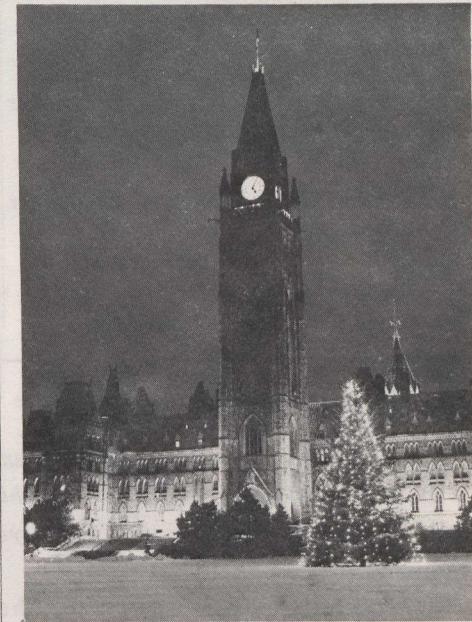
### People from many lands

Canadians trace their heritage to many corners of the globe and many of their Yuletide celebrations reflect the origins of their forefathers.

In the festivities of the Métis, a people of French-Canadian and Indian heritage, groups in northern Canada still eat buffalo meat for the Christmas repast.

On Christmas eve a party begins that might last as long as two weeks. Sometimes there is a church ceremony, but always there is a large family gathering. Men fire their guns in open fields to signal the beginning of the season.

The traditional feast is a reminder of Christmases past and only the best will do. The most tender part of the buffalo is served, together with deer and moose meat. Berries, potatoes and wild rice complement the meat dishes. Fiddling, singing and dancing



Christmas tree in front of Canada's Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

follow, sometimes all through the night. Celebrations resume the next evening.

### French Canada

Christmas in French-Canadian homes is also based on the traditions of early settlers. Preparations begin weeks, even months, in advance. A nativity scene, or *crèche*, is usually found under the Christmas tree and, on Christmas eve, the family attends midnight mass together.

On return from church in the early hours of the morning, the *réveillon*, or Christmas feast, is set — a joyous family reunion with numerous relatives sharing the fun and food. Delicacies include *tourtières*, or meat pies, turkey, vegetables and fruit cake or Christmas log (a special cake) for dessert. Wines flow freely. Gifts are exchanged, carols are sung and party games and dancing follow.

### Austrian and German families

Austrian families serve breaded filet of sole at Christmas, a habit that dates back to the days when fish was a luxury for an inland people. Hot

spice wine and a variety of home-made cookies finish off the dinner. Everyone attends church after dinner. Then the beautiful tree-lighting ritual begins. The youngest child recites a prayer and the family sings *Silent Night* in German. Anyone who plays a musical instrument is invited to accompany the singers. The tree dazzles as it is lit for the first time, a reminder of the days when real candles were used.

In German-Canadian homes, December 25 is a joyous family celebration, highlighted if possible with a visit to the Grandmother's house. She has a special tree, decorated with hand-

made ornaments, marzipan and chocolate treats.

The Christmas feast includes goose or duck, a roast pig, sauerkraut and potato dumplings. Desserts would satisfy any sweet tooth — Black Forest cake, raisin loaf and special cookies baked a month in advance. The children are given a plate of goodies to nibble during the day.

#### **Italian traditions**

Families from southern Italy in Canada share a special supper on Christmas eve, while those from northern Italy celebrate the following day. Since December 24 is a day of abstention,

the meal is meatless and seafood dishes are eaten, with eel being the most popular. Codfish, smelts and anchovies are fried in oil. Fancy pastries and desserts of seasonal fruits complete the meal.

*Panettone*, a bread-like cake with raisins, is served by immigrants from northern Italy.

One custom common to both northern and southern Italo-Canadians is the visit of the *Befana* on January 6. *Befana* is a Latin abbreviation of Epiphany, the day of the Wise Men's visit to Bethlehem. Legend has it that good children receive gifts from an old woman who carries a sack. Those who misbehave get nothing but a chunk of coal.

#### **Dutch customs**

Canada's immigrants from the Netherlands spend the season quietly, gifts being exchanged on St. Nicholas Day, December 6. This is a children's holiday and they still hang their stockings "by the chimney with care." St. Nick, a bishop in the third century, was known for his generosity. British colonists in New York adapted his name to Santa Claus.

Christmas Day is usually spent with the family. In accordance with Canadian custom, turkey is the main dish for dinner.

#### **Polish celebrations**

Polish festivities begin Christmas eve when the first star appears. A blessed host of unleavened bread, the *oplatek*, is shared among family members. A white tablecloth covers a layer of hay, a reminder of Jesus's birth in the manger.

An extra place is set at table, since legend says that any weary traveller could stop by and feel welcome and in the hope that the God Child will pay a visit.

*Borscht*, a beet soup, is served at the meatless meal, which is known as the *Wilia* supper. Traditional Polish dishes are eaten and it is interesting to note that an odd number of dishes must be served but there must never be an odd number round the table — if there is, says tradition, one of the celebrants will not live to enjoy next year's Christmas meal.

Polish Christmas season lasts until February 2, which is *Cancelmas* Day,

#### **Thoughts for the New Year — message withstands the test of time**

*On a street in Montreal, someone found a crumpled paper at his feet. He picked it up and read the printed message. This document is relayed to you as a message of joy and peace for the coming year. (Extract from the newspaper Bonne Nouvelle, December 1976.)*

Go peacefully on your way through the noise and bustle, and remember that silence is peace. As far as possible and without bending your head be friends with your fellow men; express your truth calmly and clearly; listen to what others have to say, even the boring and the ignorant — they also have something to relay.

Avoid the man with a loud and authoritative voice, he sins against the mind. Do not compare yourself to others or you may become vain and bitter. You will always find some who are better than you and some who are worse.

Rejoice in your successes but also in your plans. Enjoy your work, no matter how simple, for it is a real thing in an uncertain world.

Be cautious in business, for people are cheats. But do not forget either that virtue exists, and that a great number of people follow an ideal and that heroism is not a rare thing.

Be yourself and especially do not make a pretense of your friendship. Do not, at the same time, look at love cynically because, despite the vicissitudes and disenchantments, it is as lively as the grass you hoe.

Accept the inevitable passage of time and have no regrets of youth and its pleasures. Know that in order to be strong you have to prepare yourself but do not succumb to imaginary fears that are often the cause of fatigue and loneliness.

Besides following a wise discipline, be good to yourself. You are a son of the universe, as are the trees and the stars. You have your place among them.

Whatever you think, it is clear that the world unfolds as it should. Be therefore at peace with God, whatever it represents for you; and whatever your duties and aspirations in a world of noise and confusion, keep your soul in peace.

Despite evil, work and shattered dreams, life can still be beautiful. Be prudent. Try to be happy.

FOUND IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH IN BALTIMORE, U.S.A., DATED 1693.



Vancouver's decorated "carol ship" prepares to spread the Christmas spirit.



when Polish-Canadians carry candles to church and have them blessed for use in times of distress.

#### Ukrainian festivities

The holy celebration of Ukrainian Canadians is on January 7 (by the Julian calendar, which is 13 days behind the Gregorian one). A high point of festivities is the carolling from January 6 to 8, when bands of young Ukrainians go from door to door entertaining friends and neighbours, receiving in return donations for the church groups they represent.

The traditional dinner on January 6, Christmas eve, is known as *sviata*

*vechera*. Twelve dishes are usually served — one for each of the 12 apostles. Foods can include *kutia* — a mixture of cooked whole wheat and honey, *borscht*, *holubci* (cabbage rolls stuffed with rice or buckwheat), fish

and *pyrohy* (cooked dough with sauerkraut filling).

Folklore surrounds Ukrainian Christmas observances. One concerns the extra place at the dinner table — not only will a stranger be welcome there, but legend has it that deceased family members' spirits unite with their loved ones during the season. We are also told that livestock and birds can speak on Holy Night.

All these traditions — and more — combine to make Canada's Christmas mosaic the celebration it is, year after year, when young and old join to mark a season of peace and goodwill. (Photos courtesy Canadian Government Office of Tourism)



Madrigal singers entertain guests at the Empress Hotel, Victoria, B.C.

### Canada urges new start to Middle East peace negotiations

*Robert Stanbury, Canadian representative at the United Nations General Assembly, stated on December 6 that "with renewed hopes for Lebanon" and therefore for the whole of the Middle East, the time seemed opportune "for the reactivation of comprehensive negotiations towards a final settlement." Mr. Stanbury's address to the thirty-first session of UNGA follows:*

\* \* \* \* \*

In the view of the Canadian Government, it is of the utmost urgency that a new start be made. There exists now agreement on the framework for negotiations: first, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 have obtained general agreement. Secondly, all parties have agreed that the Palestinians should be heard and participate in any discussion affecting their future. What, then, are the remaining obstacles? We know that they are procedural in form.

It would, of course, be naive to deny that the existing procedural difficulties cloak deeply-felt aspirations and apprehensions. But this fact simply confirms the necessity for particular efforts by the key parties to clear away procedural obstacles and permit negotiations to be resumed. We all know that the most important obstacles are at the present time: the difficulty of arranging for the effective representation of the Palestinian people in the discussions and negotiations that will play a central role in determining their future, on the one hand; on the other,,

the need for unequivocal acceptance by all parties of the existence of the State of Israel as a sovereign and independent state in the Middle East.

#### Obstacles not insurmountable

The task of overcoming these obstacles ought not to be beyond human ingenuity. It will require imagination, flexibility, determination. It will demand the wisdom, on the part of all concerned, to refrain from making it impossible to begin constructive negotiations by insisting on procedural considerations that would tend to predetermine their conclusions.

For negotiations to be successful they must begin, and they must begin with clear indications from both sides of the will to make necessary concessions. To save, as "bargaining points" for use at a later stage, concessions that both sides know to be inevitable, can only make it impossible for the bargaining ever to get started. There is no basis for serious negotiations without a clear understanding of two points: the reality of Israel as an independent state consistent with Security

Council Resolution 242 and the need for the Palestinian people to participate in the process of developing an appropriate structure for their political self-expression within a suitable territorial framework.

Except for Palestinian participation, Security Council Resolution 242 provides all the necessary elements of a basis for negotiations. Israel must withdraw from territories occupied in 1967, but only as a part of a process that establishes secure and recognized borders for all states in the region and that provides effective recognition for the right of all these states, including Israel, to live in peace. Resolution 242 was a landmark of general agreement on the essential framework for a just and lasting peace. It should be neither tampered with nor distorted. It should be used as the basis for moving ahead toward a negotiated solution.

The Geneva Conference, while not the only conceivable forum for negotiations, is the only one in being. Rather than try to reconstruct it, we urge the parties to make use of it with all the urgency the situation demands.

Let the parties and the international community, therefore, do what is necessary in order to permit the launching of the negotiating process and to seize now an opportunity which, if it is not grasped, will surely pass just as surely to be followed by the outbreak of renewed hostilities and destruction which it is our common responsibility to prevent.

### Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta sign hearing-loss pact

The Manitoba provincial government has authorized the provincial Workers' Compensation Board to enter into an agreement with the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan regarding compensation for workers who suffer noise-induced hearing loss.

Manitoba Labour Minister Russ Paulley, the minister responsible for the board, said the agreement would cover compensation and rehabilitation on a provincially-shared basis, between the three workers' compensation boards. This would be on a proportionate basis, according to the exposure in each province.

The minister said the claims to workers' compensation boards regarding hearing loss because of excessive

noise in the work-place were much like those made due to silicosis-induced conditions, for which Manitoba has agreements with most provinces.

He said, like silicosis, the noise which contributes to the hearing loss could have occurred in any or each of the three provinces included in the agreement and the responsibility of each involved board to make contributions to the victims with damaged hearing is recognized.

Under the new agreement the worker would file a claim with only one compensation board and would be paid by that board, although the other boards involved would contribute according to the rate of exposure in each participating province.

### Contribution to Lebanon relief

Canada has remitted \$450,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross in aid of victims of the Lebanese conflict, announced Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, last month.

The Canadian International Development Agency grant brings the total of Canadian contributions for relief in Lebanon to \$750,000.

According to the most conservative estimates, over 50,000 people have been killed in the conflict in the last 18 months. Some 250,000 have been severely wounded and nearly a million have fled.

Canada's contributions to the Committee have been made through the Canadian Red Cross Society.

### Prince Andrew to study in Canada

Lakefield College School, near Peterborough, Ontario, will have a royal student next year, when Prince Andrew, the second son of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh takes up his studies there during the winter and spring terms.

The Prince, who will be 17 years old in February, will undertake a full program of Grade 12 studies at the school, where he will also board.

Gordonstoun, a school in Scotland, which he is now attending, has a similar curriculum and an agreement for exchange of students. Prince Andrew will be the Gordonstoun representative at Lakefield during the two terms, an arrangement which will allow him to continue preparing for his final examinations under the British system. The winter term runs from January 6 to March 17; the spring term from April 5 to June 11.

During his period of studies at Lakefield, Prince Andrew will undertake no engagements of any kind and will confine himself exclusively to school work.



*Prince Andrew*

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police will assure security arrangements while he is in Canada.

Prince Andrew, second in line of succession to the Throne, is the third born of the Queen's four children. He was born at Buckingham Palace on February 19, 1960.

### Government introduces measures to reduce unemployment

Additional measures to reduce unemployment were announced on November 25 by the Department of Manpower and Immigration and the Unemployment Insurance Commission. They include doubling of this year's Local Initiatives Program (LIP) from \$100 million to \$200 million; the provision of \$50 million for federal labour-intensive projects in areas of high unemployment; and a decrease of 9 per cent in the unemployment insurance premium rates for employers and workers.

An earlier announcement of Government measures designed to reduce unemployment included a \$40-million increase for occupational training, bringing the total for the year to \$522 million and enabling the training this year of more than 305,000 Canadians; and expansion of the Canada Manpower Mobility Program in 1976-77 to \$13.7 million, enabling permanent relocation of 15,000 families, and other mobility grants to some 40,000 to 40,500 workers. The expanded LIP program will create a total of 248,000 man-months of em-

ployment for an estimated 47,000 workers. The additional funding will be directed solely to areas where unemployment exceeds 7 per cent. A special effort will be made in the expanded program to reduce youth unemployment.

The expanded program is intended to reduce unemployment in the winter months. In April the Government's announced "employment strategy" will take effect with programs costing \$358 million in 1977-78 and benefiting 135,000 participants. Of these programs, a \$200-million Canada Works Program will create 61,000 jobs and will sustain and expand the job-creation levels built up under LIP. The \$50 million for federal labour-intensive projects will include repairs and maintenance in National Parks; construction and maintenance of small harbours for small vessels; and fisheries-management projects.

The current unemployment insurance premium rate for employees will be reduced from \$1.65 per \$100 insured

### Public Service award

Stuart Milton Hodgson, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, will receive the Outstanding Achievement Award of the Public Service for 1976, the Prime Minister announced on December 3.

This award, granted under the Incentive Award Plan of the Public Service of Canada, consists of a citation and an honorarium of \$5,000. The recipient is chosen by a committee of prominent Canadians from outside the Public Service.

The Outstanding Achievement Award is one of the four programs which make up the Incentive Award Plan. The others are the Suggestion Award Program which is open to Public Servants up to and including middle-management levels; the Merit Award Program which is aimed at all levels of Public Servants; and the Long Service Award Program for those who have served the Federal Government for 25 years.

Mr. Hodgson, a native of Vancouver, British Columbia, was appointed to the Northwest Territories Council to represent labour in 1964, and in July 1965 was named Deputy Commissioner. He became Commissioner in 1967, the first non-civil servant to hold the position.

Within six months of his appointment, he succeeded in having the Northwest Territories government administration moved from Ottawa to Yellowknife, the then newly-established capital of the Northwest Territories.

earnings to \$1.50. At the same time the employer rate will be reduced from \$2.31 to \$2.10 per \$100 insured earnings.

The lower insurance rates will begin January 1, 1977, when the maximum insurable earnings will be increased from \$200 to \$220 a week. In effect, this will mean maximum employee and employer premiums will remain at \$3.30 and \$4.62 respectively. The premium reduction takes effect at the same time the automatic indexing of the personal income tax system increases both personal exemptions and tax brackets by 8.6 per cent for the 1977 taxation year. This indexing results in a reduction of taxes payable of \$950 million in the 1977 taxation year.

# News of the arts

## New Canadian production a lesson for young film-makers

Toronto film-maker Allan King has completed filming on a million-dollar feature *Who has seen the Wind*, based on the W.O. Mitchell classic of a boy growing up on the Prairies during the depression years. And, in an unprecedented move, the Department of Manpower and Immigration in association with the Department of Culture and Youth of the province of Saskatchewan invested \$35,000 in the film to organize workshops to upgrade the skills of Saskatchewan film-makers and to provide experience in the industry, which is still in its embryo in that province.

Jose Ferrer and Gordon Pinsent star in the film, with Brian Painchaud playing the nine-year-old central figure and Doug Junior as his 13-year-old friend Ben.

The town of Arcola (population 580) in southeastern Saskatchewan, was chosen as the location after a long search by art director Anne Pritchard to find a town that would match the architecture and general atmosphere of the location described in Mitchell's novel. In addition to the 30 members in the cast, many of the Arcola's inha-



Young film-makers learn on the job making film *Who has seen the Wind*.

bitants took part as extras.

Besides the contribution from the Department of Manpower and Immigration, the film was financed by the Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation, the Canadian Film Development Corporation and Famous Players of Canada.

Some 33 young film-makers were

taught various aspects of film-making on the job, encompassing film production, script writing, directing, camera work, lighting, design, sound and editing. In co-operation with Souris Films, they were paid for their on-the-job training.

The film is scheduled for première in Arcola early in the spring.

## History of Scots in Canada published

*The Scottish Tradition In Canada*, an ethnic history edited by Dr. Stanford Reid of the history department at the University of Guelph, Ontario, was presented on November 20 in Halifax, Nova Scotia by John Munro, Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism at the Nova Scotia Provincial Multiculturalism Conference held in conjunction with the annual general meeting of the Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia.

The Scots, forming the third largest ethnic group in Canada, had their first large scale contact with this country in the eighteenth century, when Nova Scotia was founded and settled. Since then, they have been involved in every field of Canadian development, from religion to government to business and the labour movement.

Dr. Reid's book, which includes 16 pages of black-and-white photographs, is the product of contributions by 14 authors — historians, sociologists and

literary critics. The history concentrates on the period prior to 1900 with a final chapter outlining the role of Scots in Canadian society since 1900.

The work, published by McClelland and Stewart, is another in the series of ethnic histories commissioned by the Department of the Secretary of State in 1972. The Polish history, *A Member of a Distinguished Family, the Polish Group In Canada*, and *The Enemy That Never Was*, the history of the Japanese in Canada, are already available in bookstores.

## Canadian art in Italy

The Galeria d'Arte of Pescara, Italy, housed a showing of contemporary prints by Canadian artists during the summer.

Opened by D'Iberville Fortier, the Canadian Ambassador to Italy, the show included works by Fernand Leduc, Serge Tousignant, Jacques Hurtubise, Rita Letendre, David

Samila, Sheldon Cohen, Harry Kiyooka, Takao Tanabe and Gordon Smith.

The exhibition was a project of the Canadian Cultural Institute in Rome, a foundation established in 1960 as a result of war reparations paid by the Italian Government in Italian bonds. The interest is allocated annually to finance cultural activities involving the two countries.

## Ballet dream materialized

Ludmilla Chiriaeff, founding director of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, has had a 20-year-old dream come true with the establishment of a school, which, unlike L'Ecole Supérieure des Grands Ballets Canadiens, would allow talented ballet students to receive a full, state-recognized education at no extra cost to their parents.

Such a school now exists, thanks to the determination of Chiriaeff and to a provision in the Quebec education law: if a school board anywhere in the pro-

vince offers courses not available elsewhere, any student in the province may have access to them.

The provision allows for transfer payments from the student's home school, plus a living and travel allowance paid to the school receiving the student.

Upon being made aware of the existence of this provision, Chiriaeff set about winning the enthusiasm of the education department. She then found a school — the Pierre Laporte Secondary School in Montreal — which agreed to set up the proper facilities. The first group of 33 students enrolled in September 1975. A two-year junior college program with credentials for university is being planned for when the original class completes its five-year secondary school course.

## The Racoons

(One of a series from Hinterland Who's Who by the Canadian Wildlife Service.)

The name racoon comes from the Algonquin word *arakun* meaning "he scratches with his hands".

In Canada the range has been extended northward in recent decades, probably owing to more favourable climatic conditions, and now includes all provinces except Newfoundland (racoons were introduced to Prince Edward Island). Scattered reports of sightings have come from areas north of the indicated range.

The racoon is not a great roamer, having a home range of about one square mile. Population densities normally are one animal *per* five acres. The animal is considered to be an inhabitant of the woodland edge, especially hardwoods and is seldom found within extensive forest stands.

### Appearance

Undoubtedly the most notable physical characteristics are the racoon's black facial mask and ringed tail. As many as five to ten black rings may be found on the tail, markings which contrast sharply with the grey colour of this long-furred animal. Black, brown and albino colour phases also occur. The head is broad, though the muzzle is pointed. The toes are not

webbed, in fact the footprints resemble those of a man, and because the front toes can be opened wide, the forepaws can be used as "hands" almost as skilful as those of monkeys. The normal life span is probably from ten to 12 years.

Although capable of trotting like a dog or bounding at speeds of up to 15 miles an hour, the racoon cannot sustain such speeds for any length of time. Therefore, unless chased by a dog or an irate human, it is unusual to see a racoon moving along any faster than its characteristic "Sunday shuffle".

### Diet

In spring, when the female is providing food for her litter as well as herself, the diet is predominantly animal matter predominantly crayfish. Young muskrats, squirrels, and rabbits, the eggs of ducks, red-winged blackbirds, grouse, pheasant and quail, and marsh invertebrates, e.g. fresh-water clams and giant water beetles, are also consumed.

In summer, as plants are abundant, the racoon's diet is 70 percent vegetarian. Berries, including strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries, are eaten along with cherries, plums, peaches, peas, potatoes, and immature corn when available.

The autumn diet is extremely important to the survival of the animal during the Canadian winter. Further south, racoons are active and feed all winter long, but the more northern animals are forced to spend much of



those long cold and snowy months existing on the store of fat built up by autumn gorging.

### Breeding and characteristics

Unlike the ground hog, the racoon does not truly hibernate in winter but merely becomes inactive. The body temperature does not drop and the animal's activity appears governed by the air temperature. In early winter the racoon will stay denned up during below freezing temperatures. Such a pattern allows the racoon to conserve its valuable energy stores (fat) during periods when it is unlikely to find food. However, by the breeding season (January–February) the male racoon will be up and about seeking a female even in below-zero temperatures providing the snow is not too deep. The males will mate with more than one female. The female will drive off all other males except the one she selects to be her mate, and as she mates with only one male she is called monogamous.

The gestation period averages 63 days and the litter, averaging four and ranging from one to seven furred and blind young, is born in late April to early May. The male gives no assistance in raising the young and may not even be within the spring and summer home range of the female and her young family. The eyes of the young racoons open about 18-23 days after they are born but by ten days of age they are already sporting the familiar facial mask and colour patterns typical of the species.

Other characteristics of the species include a proclivity for sun-bathing. Although generally most active at night, the racoon is known to forage during the day also. However, one is more likely to see the animal sunning itself in a tree during bright warm weather.

The animal is subject to canine distemper, meningitis and rabies, although the latter is often confused with encephalitis which has similar symptoms.

As the racoon can be easily tamed when young, many people have had their lives enriched by close association with this intelligent, inquisitive animal. It is one of the few wild creatures which appears capable of making the adjustment from family pet back to the wild.

**Consumer price indexes**

From September to October, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities with increases ranging from 0.2 per cent in Saint John, New Brunswick, to 1.4 per cent in Regina, Saskatchewan. Higher home ownership charges resulting mainly from annual increases in residential property taxes were largely responsible for these advances, while increased prices for clothing contributed to a lesser extent. Other contributing factors included higher fees for dental care and for university tuition. Movements of prices for food at home varied across the country with prices of fresh vegetables generally higher and those for beef lower.

*St. John's, Newfoundland* — All items: September to October 1976, up 0.3 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.4 per cent.

*Halifax, Nova Scotia* — All items: September to October 1976, up 0.6 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.0 per cent.

*Saint John, New Brunswick* — All items: September to October 1976, up 0.2 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 5.4 per cent.

*Quebec City, Quebec* — All items: September to October 1976, up 0.7 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 5.5 per cent.

*Montreal, Quebec* — All items: September to October 1976, up 0.5 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 5.3 per cent.

*Ottawa, Ontario* — All items: September to October 1976, up 0.7 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.2 per cent.

*Toronto, Ontario* — All items: September to October 1976, up 0.7 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.5 per cent.

*Thunder Bay, Ontario* — All items:

September to October 1976, up 0.6 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 7.8 per cent.

*Winnipeg, Manitoba* — All items: September to October 1976, up 0.9 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 7.7 per cent.

*Saskatoon, Saskatchewan* — All items: September to October 1976, up 0.5 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.6 per cent.

*Regina, Saskatchewan* — All items: September to October 1976, up 1.4 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 8.1 per cent.

*Edmonton, Alberta* — All items: September to October 1976, up 0.6 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 6.2 per cent.

*Calgary, Alberta* — All items: September to October 1976, up 1.3 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 7.0 per cent.

*Vancouver, British Columbia* — All items: September to October 1976, up 0.6 per cent; October 1975 to October 1976, up 8.8 per cent.

**News briefs**

- The Joint Co-operation Committee established under the Framework Agreement on Commercial and Economic Co-operation between Canada and the European Communities, which entered into force October 1, met for the first time in Brussels on December 10.

- Justice Minister Ron Basford introduced legislation on human rights in the House of Commons on November 29, which would establish an anti-discrimination code and allow citizens to examine their own Government files. The Government also proposes to establish a human rights commission of five to nine members to investigate complaints.

- CBC president Al Johnson says the corporation will offer to set up a new cable-television network if Members of Parliament vote to televise parliamentary debates.

- The Bank of Montreal reports that central banks in most Western industrialized countries, including the Bank of Canada, have turned to tighter control of money supply growth in an effort to avoid economic fluctuations in the short run and inflation in the long run.

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*Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.*

*Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticario de Canadá.*

*Ahnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.*

**Apartment vacancies**

The average vacancy rate for privately-initiated apartment structures of six units and more in Canada's 22 metropolitan areas in October was 1.3 per cent, according to a survey undertaken by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

This figure, an increase from 1.1 per cent last April, represents a total of 14,299 vacant units completed after April 1976.

The tightest market conditions for rental apartments was in Edmonton, Alberta, where the rate was effectively 0, followed by Calgary, Alberta, Regina and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan at 0.1 per cent, Thunday Bay, Ontario, at 0.2 per cent, Victoria, British Columbia, at 0.6 per cent and Quebec and Vancouver, British Columbia, at 0.7 per cent.

The highest vacancy levels were found to be in Hull, Quebec, at 8.8 per cent, Saint John, New Brunswick, at 7.9 and Hamilton, Ontario, at 3.0.

- Secretary of State John Roberts has announced that a special Canadian medal will be struck to mark the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth. The Canadian Jubilee Medal will be presented to outstanding Canadians during 1977, the twenty-fifth year of the Queen's reign.

- International Development Research Centre president Dr. W.D. Hopper has announced a grant of \$41,000 in support of a major initiative to increase rice production in West Africa.

- Robert Rene de Cotret, president of the Conference Board in Canada, has forecast real growth in Canada's gross national product next year of 4.5 per cent.

- House prices and sales have levelled off nationally and the outlook is for a continuation of this trend for at least another year, Blair Jackson, executive vice-president of the Canadian Real Estate Association, says.

- Ontario Treasurer Darcy McKeough said recently there would be no increase in personal income tax for the province at the beginning of 1977, but the statement did not preclude the possibility of increases next year.

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