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93-25

28 June 1993

Canada Day



"I urge everyone in the Board to go out and join Canadians across the country in celebrating our national birthday on July 1"; says Michel Dagenais, "this is our day to show what national unity is all about."

The following official Canada Day activities were planned to help Canadians of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal descent get to know each other better in this International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

The Yukon Quest is a 1000-mile sled dog race held each year between Whitehorse and Fairbanks, Alaska. The organizers say they miss running

their dogs in the summer, so they decided to hold another kind of race on Canada Day. Instead of dogs, they are going to use "sled people" to pull shopping carts decorated as sleds, complete with gang lines and snaps. Participants have to follow a designated course, pass through two checkpoints and finish at S.S. Klondike. **Mush!**

Contestants from 10 to over 60 years of age who enter the 7th annual Lazee Persons Triathlon can be lazee for the first two events, running and cycling, but must pair up to canoe three kilometres down the Yukon River for the third. Sometimes they add a fourth event at a small rapids — ice-water bathing.

In Winnipeg, a citizenship ceremony will take place at the Aboriginal Centre, located in the former Canadian Pacific Railway station, where immigrants used to arrive in Manitoba and whose descendants form today's multicultural society. The Manitoba Association for Native Languages will present a program with powwow dancers, hoop dancers, and traditional games.

The three Aboriginal radio and television stations in northern Quebec will open their doors to the community and give people the opportunity to send Canada Day greetings to people in other parts of the country through the TNI-Dorval network.

Quebec region

Visitors from Vermont

"I spent a most enjoyable day with our good friends from Vermont," says Keith Morgan, host to Chair Alice Hafner, Executive Director Linda Shambo, and Assistant Penny Thurston of the Vermont Parole Board, who visited the Quebec region recently. The visitors observed several hearings and toured the programs and workshops at Cowansville Institution. "It gave me a chance to show them how we conduct hearings on our side of the border," says Morgan, "and we also exchanged ideas and shared some of our common problems."

Hafner noted similarities between the Canadian hearings and those in Vermont as well as some important differences, notably in the number of Board members and hearings and participation of case managers and legal counsel.

Shambo said the Vermont Parole Board has five part-time members who attend approximately 25 to 30 hearings every month at each of the seven correctional institutions. She says Vermont does not allow legal counsel to attend parole release hearings, and it is not something the state would like to see happen, because of the additional time required to conduct hearings. "Time is at a premium when so many hearings have to take place at any one time," says Shambo.



Vermont inmates receive a minimum and maximum sentence and are not eligible for parole until they have served the minimum. If they are not paroled at that time, their case is reviewed every six months and a panel hearing is held at least once within a 12-month period.

Inmates can be brought before the Board at any time by the Department of Corrections or at the Board's request. There is no mandatory release. Most inmates have already been released into the community through the Department of Corrections furlough program 60 to 90 days before being granted parole.

In Vermont, caseworkers and parole officers are not required to attend hearings. The visitors said this is an area of great concern and, thanks to their experience in Canada, the Vermont Parole Board will pursue the matter of requiring these people to attend hearings.

"We truly enjoyed the trip to Cowansville and the gracious reception we received," said Shambo. "The hearings were very interesting, and the tour of the facility enlightening. You can be proud of your system. The institutional staff were courteous, helpful, and knowledgeable, and we couldn't help but notice how clean and well organized everything seemed."

Comings . . . and goings

Quebec region: Anne Blouin of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Quebec, has been appointed as a part-time member for a period of three years, effective June 21, 1993.

Marc Faribault and Renaud Dutil have been reappointed as part-time members for a period of three years, effective May 28, 1993.

Daniel Goulet has also been reappointed as a part-time member for a period of three years, effective July 24, 1993.

Headquarters: Daniel Richer has been appointed as chief of staff at the Board. He will begin today, 28 June. Richer comes to NPB after 20 years with CSC.

