

Stamp, poster, bands Celebrate Weather 150

Plans by AES to celebrate 150 years of continuous weather observing across Canada are snowballing on both the national and regional fronts.

The project, now known as WEATHER 150 will include issue by the Canada Post Corporation of a commemorative stamp to honor weather observing in Canada since 1840. The multicolor stamp portrays cumulus clouds, a rainbow and the meteorological modelling symbol for the type of weather shown. Fifteen million copies of the stamp will be issued and up to 15,000 custom-designed first day covers will bear a message from Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard and be distributed to volunteer climate observers, severe weather watchers, the media, all AES employees, and to 150 national weather services, members of the United Nations World Meteorological Organization based in Geneva.

In addition, AES is producing a poster symbolizing the progress of weather observing, from an ancient weather cock to a remote sensing weather satellite, as well as a lapel pin to be distributed to all volunteer observers — "backyard", severe weather watchers, and marine observers.

By early, 1990 all AES regions had expressed a strong interest in participating in WEATHER 150 anniversary celebrations. Projects suggested so far include joint AES-Agriculture Canada plans to celebrate long term observing in Brandon, Manitoba; commemoration of centennial observing stations in Calgary and Banff, an open house at the Fredericton, New Brunswick weather office, and an offer by the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa to help mount an important display of antique meteorological instruments.

At the September 5, 1990 celebrations, to be held on campus at the University of Toronto, near the site of the original 1840 observatory, there will be a pageant consisting of soldiers or militia dressed up in the uniforms of the British Royal Artillery, who set up the first experimental observing station at Fort York in January 1840, then moved it nine months later to the univer-

Weather 150 cont'd.

sity grounds. While a band from the Seventh Toronto Regiment Artillery plays traditional marches, it may be possible for red-coated soldiers to take token weather observations on specially installed ancient instruments while Juri Werner, the University's regular climate observer, corroborates their readings on more modern instruments. Those on the podium during the ceremony will likely include representatives from the National and Historic Sites Branch of Canada's National Parks, senior officers of the British Royal Artillery and the Canadian Department of National Defence, the British High Commissioner (Ambassador), the Mayor of Toronto, the Assistant Deputy Minister of AES and, in all probability, Lucien Bouchard himself.

AES and Environment Canada's Communications Directorate will also produce fact sheets, pamphlets, press releases, media backgrounders, and magazine articles and will have a special WEATHER 150 symbol printed on all AES stationery during 1990. They will also arrange national and local television and radio interviews and in general inform the media and the public of the valuable work being performed by Canada's several thousand volunteer observers.

The overall thrust of WEATHER 150 will be to present the anniversary as a major national event. The emphasis will not only be on the past history of weather observing. Efforts will be made to connect long term continuity in maintaining climate records with the need to possess climate data that will assist research scientists working on such vital questions as the study of future global warming and other threats to earth's fragile atmosphere.