

1,400 take plunge

VANCOUVER (CP) — Two men wore dress suits, others sported hardhats, Mickey Mouse ears and a fireman's helmet with a revolving red light on it. And one man clutched a gutted fish in his hand.

The scene was English Bay on New Year's Day where an estimated 1,400 would-be-hypothermia victims braved the waters in the 60th annual polar bear swim.

Most participants braved the eight-degree water just long enough to wet their toes before racing back to the beach. Others — encouraged by thousands of spectators around them — swam, splashed, sang and drank liquor in the water for up to half an hour.

Drinkers, taking advantage of the fact no policemen were at the scene, openly consumed liquor.

A number of sailboats, yachts and motorboats moored near the swimming area honked their horns and fired off flares.

Air temperature was 10 degrees Celsius compared to a brisk minus four degrees last year. Water temperature this year was about three degrees warmer than Jan. 1, 1979.



Nattily-dressed bather joins "Polar Bears" for New Year's Day dip in English Bay.

Injury award boosted

VANCOUVER (CP) — A Calgary man left a quadriplegic after a diving accident last summer in the Okanagan has been awarded \$622,000 for his injuries.

Mr. Justice H.E. Hutcheon of the B.C. Supreme Court overruled a jury's award of \$11,000 made earlier in December.

The jury had decided that Terry LeBlanc, 28, who was suing the City of Penticton, was 95 per cent to blame in the accident, and assessed total liability at \$225,000, meaning LeBlanc would receive only about \$11,000.

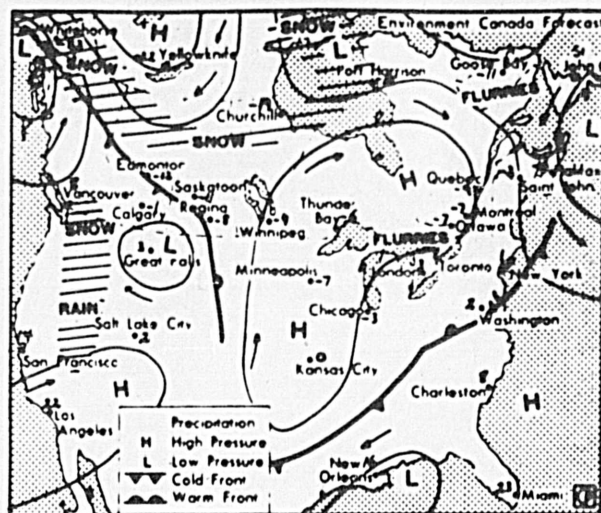
LeBlanc was left a quadriplegic after he broke his neck and severed his spinal cord when he dived off a raft in Skaha Lake last Aug. 4. The raft, about 100 metres offshore, was in water 1.5 metres deep.

On hearing the verdict, Hutcheon asked the jurors if they had understood his charge to them.

"It would be impossible not to compensate the man for future care," he said, and refused to hear a motion by the city's lawyer to accept the award.

Hutcheon ruled today that the city was 60 per cent responsible for the accident, and assessed \$1,036,088 as total damages.

THE WEATHER



Synopsis

Chilcotin, Cariboo, Central Interior: Cloudy today with occasional snow at times rain in the southern sections beginning this afternoon. Mostly cloudy Thursday with a few snow flurries. Highs both days zero to -4 in the north. Lows tonight -6 to -10.

North and West Vancouver Island: Periods of rain today changing to showers this afternoon. Windy along the coast. Mostly cloudy Thursday with a few showers. Highs both days 7 to 9, lows tonight 3 to 5.

Northern Mainland, Queen Charlottes: Cloudy today with periods of rain except the interior mainland will have periods of rain or mixed snow. Windy today. Mostly cloudy Thursday with a few showers. Highs both days 4 to 6 except lowering to freezing inland. Lows tonight near freezing along the coast and near -4 inland.

Thompson, Okanagan: Cloudy today with a few periods of rain or snow beginning this afternoon at higher elevations. Cloudy Thursday with isolated rain or snow showers. Highs both days 2 to 5, lows tonight zero to -4.

Columbia, Kootenay: Cloudy today and Thursday

with periods of or snow beginning late this afternoon. A few rain or snow showers Thursday. Highs both days zero to -4. Lows tonight -6 to -8.

Temperatures

VANCOUVER (CP) — High-low temperatures and precipitation in millimetres for the previous 24 hours issued Wednesday by the weather office:		
Cranbrook	00 -02	00.0
Penticton	05 -03	02.4
Revelstoke	01 -02	00.0
Vancouver	08 -06	01.8
Prince Rupert	07 -05	04.7
Stewart	00 -01	00.0
Fort Hardy	08 -08	02.6
Tofino	10 -08	10.9
Comox	08 -07	01.8
Victoria	09 -05	00.0
Prince George	02 -04	00.0
Blue River	00 -09	00.0
Kamloops	04 -01	00.0
Dawson City	-41 -48	00.0
Whitehorse	-23 -25	01.7
Fort St. John	-08 -14	00.0
Yellowknife	-19 -25	01.5
Inuvik	-26 -37	00.6
Lehighridge	06 -12	00.0
Medicine Hat	-03 -09	00.0
Edmonton	-06 -07	00.0
Calgary	-03 -08	00.0
Saskatoon	-09 -17	00.0
Moose Jaw	-07 -16	00.0
Regina	-08 -19	00.0
Winnipeg	-08 -24	00.5
Thunder Bay	-06 -19	00.0
Toronto	01 -01	00.0
Ottawa	-04 -07	00.0
Montreal	-02 -04	00.0
Quebec	-07 -13	00.0
St. John's	00 -03	00.0
Halifax	00 -09	00.0
Charlottetown	-05 -10	00.0
Fredericton	-01 -13	00.0
Chicago	-01 -03	00.0
New York	05 -01	00.0
Miami	21 -09	00.0
Los Angeles	22 -12	00.0
San Francisco	14 -06	00.0
Las Vegas	14 -01	00.0

UNDER TOW

Freighter sinks

VANCOUVER (CP) — There is more bad news for North Vancouver docks and grain terminals currently throttled by a strike by British Columbia Railway and a severed rail link across Second Narrows.

Ross Walker, vice-president for Canadian National Railways Mountain region, said in a news release Monday that CN's rail bridge will not be restored before the end of February, a month longer than first estimated.

Walker said difficult tidal conditions at the site coupled with bad weather and wind forced an extension of the repair period.

The bridge was knocked out Oct. 12 when it was struck and heavily damaged by a Japanese freighter travelling during dense fog.

Loss of the bridge severed a link that normally carried more than 1,000 rail cars a day taking coal, potash, sulphur,

grain and forest products to North Vancouver.

Meanwhile, the two sides in the B.C. Rail dispute are awaiting a ruling from the labor relations board on the contentious manning issue to go before it today.

The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in North Vancouver has experimented with a truck shuttle delivery. But Ed Isaac of the Canadian Wheat Board said the delivery is expensive and "a drop in the bucket," compared to rail transport.

After the Lee Wang Zin overturned Dec. 25, she drifted north and an estimated 100,000 gallons of oil fouled the fish-rich waters of Dixon Entrance, between Alaska and B.C., and bays and inlets of Alaska's Clarence Strait.

The ship beached at Kendrick Bay on Prince of Wales Island, and commercial diver Del Hansen made a perilous trip into the ship in surging water to see if any of the crew had been trapped alive in air pockets. He found no bodies, and no signs of life.

The coast guard then made plans to move the vessel into deep water and send it to the bottom.

Franklin said water currents carried much of the leaked oil into the rivers inside Alaska.

Landmark destroyed by fire

VANCOUVER (CP) — A downtown Vancouver landmark, the Angus Apartments adjacent to the mansion built by Rogers Sugar founder B. T. Rogers, was destroyed by fire Tuesday night.

All the occupants of the three-storey brick building in the city's West End were believed to have been safely evacuated but an elderly woman was reported treated at hospital for smoke inhalation.

The Angus was built in 1914 and the original Rogers' mansion, now designated a heritage site, dates from 1901. Dominion Construction owns both the Angus and the mansion, which is under lease to Hy Ainsensat, founder of the Hy's restaurant chain.

Witnesses said firemen poured a steady stream of water on the apartment to keep the fire away from the mansion.

Cause of the fire was not immediately known.

The winning numbers of the December 31st, December 2nd, and November 4th Loto Canada draws.

DECEMBER 31st

6825259...\$1 MILLION	4918553...\$1 MILLION	3490322...\$1 MILLION	1647549...\$1 MILLION
-825259...\$10,000.	-918553...\$10,000.	-490322...\$10,000.	-647549...\$10,000.
--25259...\$1,000.	--18553...\$1,000.	--90322...\$1,000.	--47549...\$1,000.
---5259...\$200.	---8553...\$200.	---0322...\$200.	---7549...\$200.
----259...\$100.	----553...\$100.	----322...\$100.	----549...\$100.

DECEMBER 2nd

3833915...\$1 MILLION	5555315...\$1 MILLION	5945158...\$1 MILLION	5009954...\$1 MILLION
-833915...\$10,000.	-555315...\$10,000.	-945158...\$10,000.	-009954...\$10,000.
--33915...\$1,000.	--55315...\$1,000.	--45158...\$1,000.	--09954...\$1,000.
---3915...\$200.	---5315...\$200.	---5158...\$200.	---9954...\$200.
----915...\$100.	----315...\$100.	----158...\$100.	----954...\$100.

NOVEMBER 4th

1341234...\$1 MILLION	1535021...\$1 MILLION	4005088...\$1 MILLION	6914414...\$1 MILLION
-341234...\$10,000.	-535021...\$10,000.	-005088...\$10,000.	-914414...\$10,000.
--41234...\$1,000.	--35021...\$1,000.	--05088...\$1,000.	--14414...\$1,000.
---1234...\$200.	---5021...\$200.	---5088...\$200.	---4414...\$200.
----234...\$100.	----021...\$100.	----088...\$100.	----414...\$100.

DRAW PRIZES. Most banks and other financial institutions will cash \$100 prizes upon presentation of the whole ticket from January 7, 1980 up to and including January 31, 1980. Commencing on February 1, 1980, all prizes must be claimed by completing the ticket stub and sending it by registered mail to the address noted below.

PRIZE PAYMENT. SCRATCH PRIZES. Up to and including January 31, 1980, all scratch prizes (\$2,000, \$100, \$20 and "Free Pouch") may be claimed by pre-

senting the winning pouch to most banks and other financial institutions. Commencing on February 1, 1980, scratch prizes may only be claimed by mailing (registered mail recommended for large prizes) winning pouches along with your name, address, and telephone number to the address noted below. Please note all claims must have been received within one year from last drawing date, December 31, 1979. Loto Canada Inc., Box 1,000,000, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3Z3

Loto Canada