



Firefighters battle blaze in Saint John, N.B., after a series of gasoline explosions Saturday.

GASOLINE VAPORS BLAMED

Blast damage surveyed

SAINT JOHN, N.B. (CP) — Most of a 13-block area of the city's downtown core, off limits since a series of gasoline explosions Saturday, reopened this morning as residents returned to their homes and businesses assessed damage.

A few streets remained closed as crews checked for gasoline vapors believed to have caused four main explosions that destroyed three buildings and damaged several others.

No one was injured or killed.

Thousands of people were evacuated from buildings, including two hotels and a nursing home, after the explosions Saturday morning.

Precise figures on the number of people ordered out of the area, and the cause of the blasts, were expected to be revealed later today.

Power was restored to some buildings Sunday night and guests permitted to return to one of the evacuated hotels. A few homeowners and businessmen were also permitted to return.

Mayor Elsie Wayne said Sunday night that a state of emergency is still in effect and water and sewer lines in the downtown core will continue to be flushed with water and foam for a number of days.

Officials refuse to speculate on

the source of the gasoline that set off four main explosions, but it appears gas leaked into the sewer system from storage tanks at a service station.

A book shop and a vacant building were flattened by the blasts, which started fires that damaged several other buildings.

"The Bookmart just exploded," said Kevin Burnside, who saw one of the first explosions. "There were papers flying everywhere."

At an emergency meeting Saturday afternoon, council declared a state of emergency in the downtown core. Police are authorized to arrest anyone entering the area.

Chess experts suffer defeat by girl, 11

GUELPH, Ont. (CP) — There are some chess experts who claim women just can't play the game — but being beaten by an 11-year-old girl must be really humiliating.

Sophia Polgar of Hungary is shaking the chauvinism out of the game with a vengeance.

Taking part in a tournament in this southwestern Ontario city over the weekend, she defeated Hal Bond, organizer of the tourney and a top-ranked player. And to make it worse for the chauvinists she beat him blindfolded.

One of the players registered at the tournament had to be steered away from the young player and her local guardians when he proclaimed loud and clear: "You can't teach a woman chess."

Polgar is one of three sisters Time Magazine described this week as a Triple Threat.

The girl, who eats, sleeps and dreams chess has become an ambassador for an anti-drug program sponsored by U.S. First Lady Nancy Reagan.

After touring much of the United States, she now is touring Eastern Canada to promote the "Just Say No To Drugs" program which started in Canada recently.

"I don't believe there is another human being alive with her rating at her age," said Bond.

Sophia's two sisters, Susan, 16, and Judith, 9, were also touring but have returned to Hungary.

To give the chauvinists some consolation, Canada's 1984 champion, Brian Hartman, defeated Polgar in the weekend play.

Katimavik goal halved

by JANE TABER
Southam News

OTTAWA — The Katimavik rescue team that convinced Senator Jacques Hebert to end his hunger strike last month has cut its fund-raising goals in half.

"We've scaled down the expectations given that we're moving to a new Katimavik," said Walter Baker, a University of Ottawa professor and the president of the private sector fund-raising group now formally called Canadian Action Committee for Youth.

"We discussed if we can do it and we decided that we should be properly humble about it. . . we shouldn't set huge targets."

The group has set a target of 1,000 participants on an \$8-million budget. Katimavik had an annual budget of \$20 million and 2,000 young participants before it was axed by the Tory government.

Baker had been confident earlier this month that they could raise \$20 million, but the optimistic estimates were scaled down after the group met for the first time late last week.

Romance: The sky's the limit

TORONTO (CP) — For her engagement, Angela Clarke was looking for something romantic, perhaps a candlelight dinner and some soft music.

What she got instead was hot-dogs, baseball and a marriage proposal in the sky as the 22-year-old sat with 38,141 other people Sunday at Exhibition Stadium watching Toronto Blue Jays lose to Kansas City Royals.

"Angela, forget George Brett! Marry Me? Luv, Tom," said the sign trailing behind a Cessna plane flying around the ball park.

"I know she wanted it (the engagement) to be a quiet thing, but I was looking for something with shock value," said Tom Frazer, 24, of suburban Scarborough.

"I got the reaction I wanted," the chuckling suitor said.

Clarke said she didn't realize at first that the circling banner message was meant for her, then "it clicked."

Frazer said "Well?" and all a shocked Clarke — whose favorite baseball player is Kansas City Royals slugger George Brett — could say was "Yes, yes, yes."

Baker and his group feel it would make the public "nervous" if they announced they were going to raise \$20 million.

He likened setting unrealistic goals to "self-inflicted wounds" and said the group could "lose face" if it failed.

Government funds run out June 30 and Baker says the group that includes former Liberal MP Jean Chretien and Hebert, is hoping for some "hard commitments" very soon.

In addition to fund-raising strategies, the group also discussed how far they wanted to go with Katimavik.

Marion Dewar, federal president of the New Democratic Party and a member of the group's executive committee, said she's more comfortable with mapping out a broader mandate for youth such as discussions and programs concerning youth employment.

She wants the group to be able to provide an alternate voice for Canada's young people.

This may mean Katimavik could be eventually phased out or become part of a much larger program for youth.

"I don't think (Katimavik) met everyone's goals but it could continue as one portion of a much broader mandate for youth," she said.

Tony Macerollo, chairman-elect of the 400,000 member Canadian Federation of Students, agrees with Dewar.

"Katimavik is not the answer to everything," he said. "It's an experience program not an employment program."

"It plays a limited role in youth objectives."

Katimavik participants were enrolled in projects across the country and were paid a dollar a day and given \$1,000 at the end of their nine-month stint.

Hebert, who has gained back more than half of the 27 pounds he lost during his 21-day hunger strike, says the main priority is to save Katimavik and begin raising funds.

While he says he can't imagine Katimavik being phased out, he admits some members of the group are interested in broader goals, but that the rallying point has always been the program.

The senator stressed that his fast was not only for Katimavik but also for the creation of a national voice for youth.

While he's optimistic they could raise the entire sum, Hebert says the \$8-million goal is a wise one.

TEENAGERS

Sex disease epidemic seen

by MARGARET MUNRO
Southam News

VANCOUVER — Sexually-transmitted diseases have reached epidemic proportions among Canadian teenagers.

And unless more is done to control the spread of the sex-related infections, the Canadian Pediatric Society say the epidemic "can only lead to profound medical consequences in the future."

"This is much more scary than AIDS because it happens every day," says Dr. Victor Marchessault, an official with the society representing 1,500 children's doctors across the country.

The organization is so concerned that it recently issued a special statement urging doctors to be more aggressive in screening for and treating the diseases in children.

It is also pushing for better sex education in schools to present the facts about the diseases and their often "devastating" consequences, such as infertility.

"We're faced with the problem where kids enjoy sex, they know they can get diseases, but they know they can get treated for it so they don't really worry about it," says Marchessault, adding that young people must realize there is no ready cure for infertility.

"Our concern is in the long-term, with what is going to happen to the population" if the incidence of the diseases, and infertility, continues to climb, Marchessault said in an interview.

The pediatric society sent the statement on the epidemic to its members in March and has submitted it to the Canadian Medical Association for distribution to its 38,000 members.

"Sexually transmitted diseases can not be dismissed as a minor problem in the pediatric age group," the statement says, pointing to statistics that show the incidence of gonorrhea and chlamydia infection in teenagers aged 15 to 19 years is second only to that in the 20- to 25-year-old group.

All told, there were more than 8,500 reported cases of gonorrhea in Canadian adolescents in 1983, far more than the total of all other infectious diseases reported for this age group.

Gonorrhea and chlamydia are the most common diseases, but children are falling prey to the full range of sexually transmitted organisms. The list of more than 20 organisms cause disorders including genital warts, herpes, syphilis, pelvic inflammatory disease and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), though it is the least common of the lot.

Infants could suffer

"If the STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) epidemic is to be controlled in the pediatric population, physicians who care for children must be aggressive in their diagnosis, treatment, contact tracing and patient and community education for this age group," the statement says.

"Ignoring STDs in pediatric patients will not make the problem disappear and can only lead to profound medical consequences in the future."

The most serious consequences, says Marchessault, are infertility, problem pregnancies and transmission of disease to infants of infected mothers.

The number of hospital admissions for pelvic inflammatory disease, a leading cause of infertility, in 15- to 19-year-old girls increased by 46 per cent between 1970 and 1980 with more than 3,200 cases in 1980.

The rate of ectopic pregnancy, a problem where the embryo is lodged outside the uterus which can also lead to infertility, in teenagers has increased by 63 per cent during the past 10 years.

Infants of infected mothers — particularly when they are teenagers — are at risk of serious infection and even death. Better screening and treatment in pregnancy and early diagnosis and treatment in infected in-

fants, the statement says, are crucial as is better sex education.

Marchessault says the pediatric society is planning to prepare a sex education information package for distribution to school and education ministries.

He says similar efforts in the past have not got far because the issue is such an emotional and political minefield for school administrators and parents, many of whom feel sex education leads to promiscuity.

The lack of adequate sex education in most provinces has not, however, stopped many adolescents from engaging in sex and picking up sex-related diseases.

Some diseases are the result of sexual abuse, particularly when infections are found in young children.

A recent report from the federal Laboratory Centre for Disease Control says there were 70 cases of gonorrhea in children under 10 years of age reported in 1984. For children between 10 and 14 years of age there were 291 cases.

The report says it is likely the incidence of sexually transmitted disease in young children is under-reported because doctors may be unaware of the possibility of such infections in a very young child.

DUCHESS PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL

Student report cards for mid-semester have been distributed to students on Thursday, April 17, 1986

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
Monday, April 21, 1986
Gymnasium — 7-9 P.M.

Teachers, Counsellors and Administrators will be available to discuss student progress and to answer questions regarding student course selection for 1986/87.

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Saturday, April 19, 1986, the LOTTO 6/49 Jackpot of \$4,422,236.70 was carried over.

The six numbers drawn were 7, 17, 26, 28, 42, 48. The bonus number was 43.

3 winners of the 5 correct plus bonus number category win \$270,004.40 each, 321 winners of the 5 correct category win \$1,929.60 each, 19,913 winners of the 4 correct category win \$59.80 each, and 376,723 winners of the 3 correct category win a prize of \$10 each.

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