

A wreck rediscovered

For years, the 1914 sinking of the *Empress of Ireland* in the St. Lawrence River got scant attention. But now—in part, no doubt, because of the blockbuster movie *Titanic*—one of Canada's worst maritime disasters is generating a flurry of interest. The Quebec government recently declared the shipwreck a historic site. A book on the calamity, which took 1,014 lives, appeared in April. And there are plans for a \$1.2-million museum to be built adjacent to the Musée de la mer in Pointe-au-Père, Que., 10 km from where the *Empress* sank after being hit by a Norwegian collier. "We often call it the forgotten tragedy," says Simon Cadieux, director of the museum fundraising campaign, "because two months later there was the First World War."



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Inevitably, the *Empress* prompts comparisons with the *Titanic*, which sank two years earlier, killing 1,522 people. There were several key differences: the *Empress*, owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., had more lifeboats, but, because of a large hole in its side, sank faster—in 14 minutes, compared with more than two hours for the *Titanic*.

"On the *Empress* people didn't have time to react," says Philippe Beaudry, a Longueuil, Que., financial adviser and founder of the *Empress of Ireland* Historical Society, who fought for years to get the site protected. He has made some 600 scuba dives to the wreck, collecting 500 artifacts—including silverware and a heavy brass bell from the mast. His own finds will be on display this month at the L'Islet-sur-Mer museum near Quebec City. The *Empress* is finally getting royal treatment.

Capital Confidential

Bernard Shapiro, principal of Montreal's McGill University, was not surprised that there was an outcry when he accompanied Lucien Bouchard on the Quebec premier's four-city swing through the United States last month. Just at the extent of it. Shapiro's office is still trying to cope with the 200 or so letters and phone calls flowing in from anglophone Montrealers about the trip. Many have been supportive, he says. But a good number have been "quite abusive," calling for his resignation. McGill psychology associate professor Don Donderi, has even publicly excoriated his boss for "selling out the university to a separatist premier."

The sharp reaction may stem partly from the fact that Shapiro was the only non-governmental member of the tour invited to accompany Bouchard to the daily press conferences—an image seen in Montreal on the nightly news. In any case, Shapiro says he would do it all again, both for the business contacts he made as well as for the opportunity to have four days of quality face time with Bouchard to make the case for the future of Quebec's top universities. As it happens, Shapiro's wife, Phyllis, an education professor at McGill, has become lunch chums with Audrey Best, Bouchard's wife, who just completed first-year law at McGill. As for his detractors, Shapiro says: "There are people who can cope with reality and people who can't. We just have different views of who fits in what category."

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. *A Widow for One Year*, John Irving (1)
2. *Cities of the Plain*, Cormac McCarthy (8)
3. *The Street Lawyer*, John Grisham (5)
4. *Larry's Party*, Carol Shields (6)
5. *Girlfriend in a Coma*, Douglas Coupland (3)
6. *Ghost Country*, Sara Paretsky
7. *Barney's Version*, Mordecai Richler (4)
8. *Damascus Gate*, Robert Stone (9)
9. *Black and Blue*, Anna Quindlen (2)
10. *Pandora*, Anne Rice (7)

NONFICTION

1. *Understanding Men's Passages*, Gail Sheehy (3)
2. *Angela's Ashes*, Frank McCourt (2)
3. *The Gifts of the Jews*, Thomas Cahill (1)
4. *Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller Sr.*, Ron Chernow (4)
5. *Simple Abundance*, Sarah Ban Breathnach (7)
6. *The Cult of Impotence*, Linda McQuaig (5)
7. *The Man Who Listens to Horses*, Monty Roberts (8)
8. *Who Killed Canadian History?*, Jack Granatstein (6)
9. *The Millionaire Next Door*, Thomas Stanley and William Danko (9)
10. *A Walk in the Woods*, Bill Bryson (10)

() Position last week Compiled by Brian Bethune

A man and his Arrow



The mastermind behind Canada's 1950s Avro Arrow project, Crawford Gordon has been called both a genius and a schemer. Author Greig Stewart uses archival material and interviews with colleagues and friends to reveal the man behind the plane in *Arrow Through the Heart, the Life and Times of Crawford Gordon and the Avro Arrow*.

Passages

SEPARATING: Singer Anne Murray, 53, and her husband, Bill Langstroth, 68; in Thornhill, Ont. Murray and Langstroth, a



NORA PENHALE-SARNIA OBSERVER

former television producer with the CBC, were married in 1975, and Langstroth has kept a low profile since. Murray, best known for her hits *Snowbird* and *Danny's Song*, will remain in the family home north of Toronto with their two sons, 21 and 19.

DIED: David Foster, 82, owner of the 1983 Kentucky Derby winner, *Sunny's Halo*; in Toronto, after a long illness. Sunny's Halo was one of only two Canadian-bred horses to win the Derby.

AWARDED: The 1998 Benjamin Franklin Award for best children's book in the United States, to Canadians Susan V. Bosak, 35, and Laurie McGaw, 45, for *Something to Remember Me By*; in Chicago.

AWARDED: The Canadian Journalism Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award, to *Maclean's* columnist Peter C. Newman, 69; in Toronto. *The Toronto Star* won the Excellence in Journalism Award.

NAMED: University of Toronto criminology professor Clifford Shearing, 56, to the commission on policing in Northern Ireland; in Belfast. The eight-member commission is headed by Chris Patten, former British governor of Hong Kong.

RETIRING: Former downhill ski champion Kate Pace Lindsay, 29; in Toronto. Pace Lindsay represented Canada at two Olympic Games, and was ranked number 1 in the world in 1993.

DIED: Country music singer Helen Carter, 70; in Nashville, Tenn. Carter was a member of the country group the Carter Family in the 1940s.

DIED: Broadway legend Dorothy Stickney, 101; in Manhattan. Stickney's career spanned five decades and included a role in the play *Life With Father*, the longest-running nonmusical in Broadway history.

DIED: Former mayor Sam Yorty, 88; at his home in Los Angeles. Yorty presided over the city from 1961 to 1973, a tumultuous time that included the 1965 Watts riots.