

Entertainment Outlook

Barris Beat

Shaw Festival and spring coming soon

By Alex Barris
Thomson News Service
When the Shaw Festival announces its 1987 season, can spring be far behind?
The 26th annual season of Niagara-on-the-Lake's premiere tourist attraction begins on April 29 with a new production of the 1925 Noel Coward comedy, *Hay Fever*.
The following week, two more pro-

ductions open: Shaw's Major Barbara and the Cole Porter musical comedy, *Anything Goes*. In all, the Shaw Festival will offer 10 productions during its five-and-a-half-month 1987 season.

Adlerly is the name of Global TV's new hour-long spy adventure series, videotaped in Toronto and featuring a number of Canadian actors in the leading roles: Winston Rekert, Jona-

than Welsh, Ken Pogue and Dixie Sealie.

Vancouver-born Rekert has appeared in such feature films as *Heartaches*, *Agnes of God* and the upcoming *High Stakes*.

I like this quote from Quebec pop singer Mario-Denise Pelletier: "In school I dressed differently from the others. I guess 'flamboyant' would be an apt description. I didn't have to change much when I got into show business."

If I mention the name of Shirley Mason, a singer, you've probably never heard of her.

Or, how about Vida Durini? Also a singer, but known only in Italy -- and some time ago.

But if you're over 40, you'd probably react to the name Shirley Harmer.

She was, in the earlier days of Canadian television, one of this country's most popular and capable singing stars. She and Robert Goulet were the stars of CGE Showtime, on CBC-Television, in the mid 1950s. In fact, Shirley Harmer was on television before Goulet was.

I still can remember, in the early 1950s, noted singer George Murray buttoholing anyone he could in the CBC corridors, trying to get them to listen to tapes of this terrific young girl he had heard. In 1954, Shirley married George Murray and by 1958 they had moved to Hollywood. For two years, she was a featured performer on George Gobel's television show on NBC.

Library review

The book of facts

The Canadian World Almanac and Book of Facts, 1987, Toronto: Global Press. \$15.95 hardback, \$7.95 paperback.

Perhaps, more than any other new title, this book is one that you will want to have close to hand over the coming year. Especially so if you are a dedicated trivia buff. Anyone looking for a good collection of miscellaneous facts about Canada and the world in general will find this a delightfully inexpensive solution.

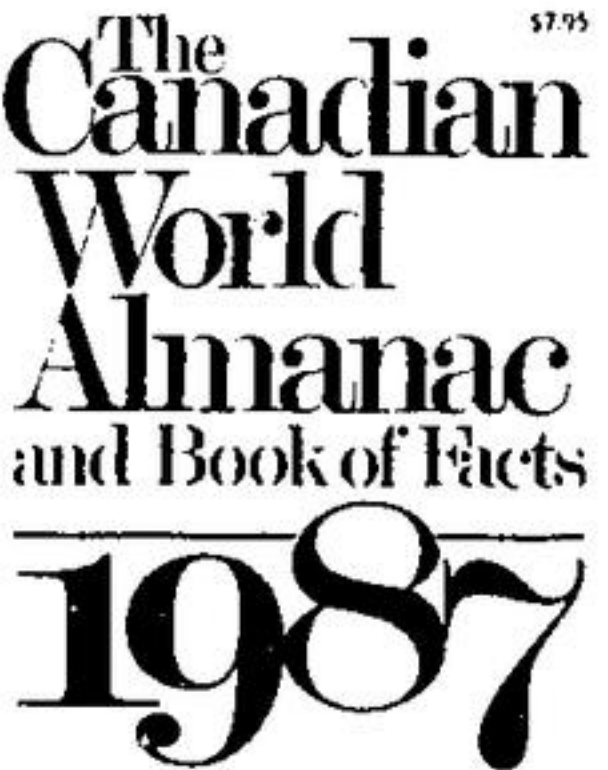
have even longer publishing histories, but in recent years have become extremely expensive, and more directories of names and addresses than collections of facts.

In 618 pages The Canadian World Almanac and Book of Facts crams together a history of Canada and the world, a review of the nations of the world, the world's economy, maps and flags of the world, winners of organized sports and a hundred other details.

I found things I knew must be printed somewhere but could never find - things like the semi-mythical Humidex index (Environment Canada's way of measuring hot and sticky weather), a stress test (which says that taking out a mortgage is slightly more stressful than being foreclosed!) and one that pops up every year, the Chinese calendar (1987 is the year of the Hare). And it's full of interesting tables from reputable sources like Statistics Canada or Financial Post.

It's not surprising that regular Trivial Pursuit players will recognize many of the items tucked away in the corners of the Canadian World Almanac. The original edition was largely written in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, where the old World Almanac was an essential reference tool. At \$8 for the paperback, it belongs on the bookshelf next to the dictionary and the thesaurus.

—By Walter Lewis,
Halton Hills Public Libraries



Almanacs have been a part of publishing since almost from the invention of the printing press, with their calendars and astronomical information. In Canada, the best known is probably the Farmers' Almanac, with its bold predictions of the year's weather patterns. The World Almanac, on which this edition is modelled was first published by Joseph Pulitzer (of Pulitzer Prize fame) in 1868.
Some other Canadian Almanacs


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