Formal procession opened the 47th International Shade Tree Conference.

Outgoing V-P John Weidhaas

International Shade Tree Conference Report
The 47th at Montreal

The 47th International Shade Tree Conference opened at Montreal with the pomp and pageantry which Canadians do well and which state-siders have come to expect. Bag-pipers formally piped ISTC President J. A. Kimmel and his entourage to the rostrum where colors were presented by a military squad. Both “O Canada” and “The Star Spangled Banner” preceded Kimmel’s formal opening.

Commercial exhibits were down compared to prior years, but this was expected. Fewer companies transported equipment to Canada for the international show. Educational sessions operated in full swing and paid registrations numbering 878 were a new ISTC record. A total of 128 paid registrations were recorded on the final morning of the Aug. 8-12 event.

Next year, for the ’72 session, the group will go to Newport Beach, Calif. William T. Bell, Newport Beach city superintendent of street trees, will serve as chairman of the local committee. Conference dates are Aug. 6-13, 1972. Bell said headquarters for the ’72 event will be the New Porter Inn at Newport Beach. He said its location is about 15 miles south of Long Beach, Calif., and some 45 miles south of downtown Los Angeles. The Inn is on the beach itself just off Pacific Coast Highway, Route 1, Bell said.

Arrangements this year were handled by Yves Desmarais, director of the Montreal Botanical Gardens and a staff of capable Canadian members of the arborist industry.

Four merit awards were made as follows: John P. Hansel, Waldick, N. J., and executive secretary of the Elm Research Institute; Clarence E. Lewis, professor of horticulture, Michigan State University, East Lansing; J. Irwin Miller, Columbus, Ind., and chairman of the board of the Cummins Engine Foundation; and Noel B. Wysong, Golconda, Ill., former editor of the Arborist News and active in both the industry and Conference activities.

Authors citations went to J. Cedric Carter, plant pathologist, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, and to Theodore T. Kozlowski, plant physiologist at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

An honorary member award was presented Roy M. Nordine, Lake City, Minn. At the time of his retirement this past year, he was

Outgoing ISTC President J. A. Kimmel, director of parks, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, passes gavel to President-elect H. M. Van Wormer, Van Wormer Tree Service, Richmond, Va.

ISTC Conference team, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. (Cal) Bundy, Urbana, Ill., Col, executive-secretary, is assisted by his wife, Nadine, as ISTC secretary.
Claude Desjardins, Arbo Service Ltd., Laval, Quebec, served as coordinator for the annual meeting.

Propagator at the Morton Arboretum.

At the business session, F. L. Dinsmore, Dinsmore Tree Service Company, St. Louis, Mo., was elected vice-president. President-elect, succeeding Kimmel is H. M. Van Womer, Van Womer Tree Service, Inc., Richmond, Va.

A tragedy at the Conference was the sudden death of Stanley R. McLane of Kansas City, Mo. He had travelled to the Conference for the express purpose of receiving an honorary life membership award. He died Wednesday afternoon, prior to the Thursday banquet award ceremonies.

McLane had been head of the J. C. Nichols nursery and landscape department at Kansas City. He supervised the planning and planting of many of Kansas City's parkways and parks, street entrances, and the formal gardens for the Country Club District residential areas of the City. He was a 25-year member of the ISTC.

Also named for honorary life memberships were John G. Michalko, Gates Mills, Ohio, and Ira F. Wickes, Suffern, N. Y. Outgoing ISTC President Jack A. Kimmel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, was accorded this honor, which is a Conference custom. Michalko served the Cleveland, Ohio, horticultural division for 38 years, the last 11 as commissioner. He has received many honors throughout the years but is probably best known for the extensive tree planting and beautification program he instigated for Cleveland.

Wickes joined the ISTC in 1935. During his career as a commercial arborist, he promoted the industry and established an enviable reputation for his business standards and code of business ethics. He trained many arborists who are in the field today.

Director of Canada's National Capital Commission, Ottawa, Ontario, James A. White, related the program of the Commission and how it has established a massive greenbelt area and park system in the Ottawa and Hull municipal areas.

Modern planning of the current Commission program began with Prime Minister Mackenzie King in 1937 when he asked internationally known Jacques Greber of France to produce a master plan for development of Canada's capital. World War II interfered, but work got underway by 1951.

Keys to the plan was development of a greenbelt about the city of Ottawa; the relocation of railway lines and marshalling yards; the extension of the park system and green spaces throughout the urban area; and the decentralization of government office complexes. Since, plans have been put into operation and updated as needed. White said the Commission never

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lost sight of the importance of trees in the overall program.

Among improvements, White pointed to the 4-acre Garden of the Provinces, just more than a block from Parliament Hill. He said the Commission also owned another 28 such parks. Another phase of the program concerns 35 miles of parkways, all dependent on well kept trees plus the greenbelt. Thirty additional miles of parkways are planned.

Relocation of railways and marshaling yards were probably the greatest factors, he stated, in release of land for parks, parkways, expressways, and open spaces in the center of the Capital region. This relocation program removed 77 level crossings and 35 miles of track within the area. It also released 251 acres of land for park and parkway development plus areas for a limited access expressway.

Decentralizing of government office buildings improved traffic flow, White said. It also provided more pleasant working conditions for civil employees.

Largest single development, White continued, is Gatineau Park, comprising 80,000 acres of hilly woodland. This land has been purchased and is now being developed for the public. The Greenbelt itself is a 41,000-acre area. It forms a ribbon of farm land and wooded sections at an average depth of 2½ miles along the sides of Ottawa not bounded by the Ottawa River. It was purchased, White said, to prevent the sprawling development of a city beyond the economic limits of sewage, water, and other administrative problems. This Greenbelt, White pointed out, is heavily populated with elms. These have undergone an intensive DDT preventive program. Now that DDT can no longer be used, White said methoxychlor is being used. Applications have been made by helicopter, hydraulic sprayers, and
a mist blower. Every effort, White indicated, will be made to save this elm population. That the Commission has been successful is the fact that in some areas, DED tree loss has been kept to 3- to 4% of the elm population.

John W. Mixon, metro forester, Georgia Forestry Commission, Atlanta, discussed a new program in that state known as urban or metro forestry. Started in 1967, the program now includes five foresters assigned to work with homeowners and others in the 7-county areas of metropolitan Atlanta. Nixon said the group assists landowners with forestry and shade tree problems. He pointed out that Metro foresters diagnose problems for homeowners but do no treatment. Such is left for the homeowner or private tree company.

Mixon said the Atlanta group of state employees cooperate with the Better Business Bureau in checking complaints from homeowners who have been victimized by fly-by-night, unskilled and non-professional people who pose as arborists or tree surgeons. They also work to make the public aware of fraudulent practices. He reported that metro areas such as Atlanta include terrain heavily populated with trees. He said that metropolitan Atlanta includes 861,000 acres which could be classified as forest land. This accounts for 61% of the total land area.

A veteran of 42 years in the industry, George W. Goodall, Goodall Tree Expert Co., Portland, Me., discussed the recent popularity of arboriculture among young men seeking careers. He pointed out the growing demand for the technical arboriculturist to handle new business among home owners, industry, and the ever newly developing shopping centers. These young people, he said, value clean air and the environment which goes with it, along with the good life. But, Goodall warned, “during the next 10 years, or even less, this sense of values may be bitterly contested by our young men, as they seek to find the utopian course between preserving our matchless environment and achieving their economic ambition.”

He pointed out that during his many years of tree specialization, the tree care company operator has progressed immeasurably from the earlier concept as a “patent medicine man.” Today, he said, the tree care company must develop a business to successfully serve customers. (Continued on page 41)
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over a long-time period and at the same time withstand competition. Arboriculture, Goodall stressed, is a complex business. It requires specialists for sales, office, and production. In general, he said, businesses are getting larger. The 1-man company is being replaced by larger, well organized, and efficiently operated companies with qualified personnel. This simply means, he pointed out, that education is necessary, and knowledge is essential to expansion.

Tree selection, always a popular subject with Conferees, was the subject of William Flemmer, president of Princeton Nurseries, Princeton, N.J. Flemmer left no doubt among the group that he believes trees are destined to play a crucial role in the future welfare of our towns and cities. He also believes that growers have the production to satisfy demand. A few years back, he said, the number of bidders for municipal contracts was very low. The number now, he said, is up and cities receive all bids needed to supply their requirements. This is particularly true, he said, for the newer improved clonal varieties of trees. Not long ago, Flemmer said, a city was virtually forced to plant seedling grown trees of widely varying merit as shade trees. Today, he pointed out, plenty of the better clonal sorts are available for any municipal bid.

Flemmer said that the North American continent now stands pre-eminent in development of new shade trees. Both government agencies and commercial nurseries are producing a steady stream of new and greatly improved clonal varieties. Not many years ago, he said, anyone searching for new trees probably went to Europe to locate them. Only there could one find the arboreta and the grounds extensive enough to produce new trees. Now, Flemmer said, the reverse is true. European nurserymen and arborists come in increasing numbers to search for new trees.

In discussing specific varieties of trees, Flemmer said that among our most neglected genera of native trees are the Amelanchiers, long favorites in Europe but little planted and appreciated here where they originated. Their propensity, he said, to sucker vigorously from the base has not encouraged their use, but their good qualities such as clouds of white flowers in spring, freedom from disease and borers, ease in transplanting, and excellent fall color, are all in their favor. More attention in his own Princeton nursery has been given this small tree, he said.