

JANUARY 7, 2000

Noteworthy



ROAD REPORTS available round the clock

During the winter season, the Department of Works, Services and Transportation is aware of the need for up-to-date road condition reports. A dispatcher is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the department's White Hills depot in St. John's and dispatchers are on 12-hour shifts in the regional offices in Clarenville, Grand Falls-Windsor, Deer Lake and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Call 1-900-451-3300 to obtain the road information any hour of the day. A nominal cost of 75 cents is charged for each call, which covers the cost of this service to the department.

To find out road conditions in your region, call the following local numbers:

Avalon Region – 1-709-729-7669

Eastern Region – 1-709-466-4160

Central Region – 1-709-292-4444

Western Region – 1-709-635-4144

Labrador Region – 1-709-896-7888

Road information is also sent to the Weather Network to update the Provincial Road Report, which is broadcast twice an hour. Up-to-date road information is also available on the web at www.gov.nf.ca. The web site, 1-900 and regional telephone numbers, and Weather Network information is updated as weather conditions change throughout the day.

Works, Services and Transportation Minister Rick Woodford reminds motorists that winter weather conditions can change very abruptly in Newfoundland and Labrador, and to exercise caution and common sense. ☞

WASN'T that a PARTY!

The New Year's Eve celebration on the St. John's waterfront brought Newfoundland and Labrador into living rooms around the world. Did you know that:

► More than 1 billion people watched the television coverage of the waterfront celebration.

► Live coverage of the countdown concert included the Life Channel, Today 2000 — CBC's international consortium, CTV along with its international consortium, ABC, CNN, Global, NTV and Associated Press Television. Follow-up coverage of the celebrations included articles in the Globe and Mail, National Post, Southam News, Ottawa Citizen, Toronto Star, Montreal Gazette, Boston Globe and repeat broadcasts by most of the television outlets.

► Since 1997, Newfoundland and Labrador's tourism industry has grown 31 per cent. In 1999, for the first time ever, in excess of 400,000 people visited the province, spending \$256 million. ☞

Y2K monitoring will continue

New Year's Eve has come and gone but monitoring for any Year 2000 computer glitches will continue for the next several weeks within provincial government departments and agencies.

All major government computer systems were tested during the Year 2000 rollover period — December 31, 1999 to January 3, 2000 — and only minor problems were encountered, according to Treasury Board President Anna Thistle. These minor Year 2000-related

problems were easily resolved.

Minister Thistle said the early January period is usually sensitive as departments and agencies return to normal operating practices following the Christmas period. "For this reason, a high level of monitoring will continue over the coming weeks, with ongoing monitoring for the balance of the calendar year to ensure the continued operation of our computerized systems and equipment." ☞

