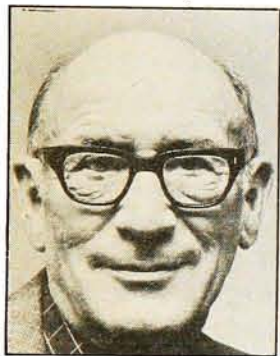


## Pioneering filmmaker Abbé Proulx

MONTREAL - Father Maurice Proulx, a pioneer of documentary filmmaking in rural Quebec, died on June 7 in a hospital in La Pocatière, Quebec. He was 86 years old.



A self-taught filmmaker, Proulx was best known for his 16mm documentaries promoting the remote areas of Quebec in the 1930s.

Among the most popular of over 50 films was *En Pays Neuf* (1937).

Proulx was ordained in 1928.

Through most of his filmmaking career, Proulx was a professor on the agriculture faculty at Laval University, which he joined in 1934 after studying agronomy at Cornell University.

In 1953, he became the director of an adoption agency in Ste. Anne de la Pocatière, Quebec.

He was awarded a honorary doctorate by Concordia University in 1979 and was made an officer of the Ordre du Québec in 1987.

## Wheeler ready to sing Mama's song

TORONTO - Anne Wheeler is set to shoot her next feature film in the small town of Rowley, Alberta. Inspired by the experiences of her parents during the Second World War - especially by her mother, who played piano for the troops in camp in Alberta - *Bye*

*Blues* is a \$4.5 million production, written, produced and directed by Wheeler. After three weeks in Rowley, the production moves to India for a week, where Wheeler's father, a doctor during the war, was held in a Japanese P. O. W. camp. Then it's back to Alberta for a further 10 days of winter shooting.

Wheeler's previous feature, *Cowboys Don't Cry*, was made in conjunction with the CBC, had a one-week theatrical run in Toronto and took the top prize at the Alberta Motion Picture Industry Awards in November.



The current project, being produced by True Blue Films, has money from Superchannel in Edmonton, Telefilm, and the Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation. It was previously on the Atlantis slate.

Wheeler's first feature was the much-acclaimed *Loyalties*.

## Krawagna, the godmother, gets due promotion

TORONTO - Rena Krawagna, a 30-year veteran of CBC responsible for purchasing programs from independent filmmakers to showcase on *Canadian Reflections*, has been appointed program advisor in the CBC office of Independent Productions.

"This move is more of an acknowledgement of what I've been doing here and of CBC's commitment to young filmmakers," says Krawagna, who refers to her office as the first open door at CBC to



young filmmakers. It is here where Krawagna attempts to "demystify the CBC monolith."

As a program purchasing officer, Krawagna was responsible for giving exposure to the first efforts of David Cronenberg and Paul Saltzman.

She says there is more talent than ever waiting for the sort of direction that she can offer.

"I am not looking at finished productions exclusively," she says.

"I talk with many young filmmakers about the projects they are working on. Those who strike me as having potential usually come through."

## Eagles charms the home folks

TORONTO - One of the better-known continuity people in Toronto has become an award-winning director.



Nancy Eagles is the producer/director of *The Street Where We Live* (1987) a 22-minute film which has won the Silver Apple Award from the National Education Film and Video Festival in Oakland, California.

Billed as an affectionate look at neighbourhood life on Toronto's Allen Avenue, *The Street Where We Live* has recently been sold to CBC for the *Canadian Reflections* series.

The 40-year-old first-time director describes her film as a glimpse of her own neighbourhood where the term community spirit is not passé and where a hot-dog day and a lawn sale have become an annual tradition.

"It's an old working-class neighborhood that has kept many of the old values," says Eagles, who encountered an unexpected difficulty when one of the neighbours died during the two years it took to make the film.

"Some of the neighbours moved away during this time and it looked like that spirit would die until we all saw the film and the spirit was recalled."

## AFI honours Leaf with retro

MONTREAL - One of Canada's leading animators was honoured by the American Film Institute at the second annual Walter Lantz Conference on Animation, June 11 in Los Angeles.

Caroline Leaf, whose *The Street*, produced by the National Film Board, won an Academy Award nomination in 1976, was the subject of a special tribute.

"It was interesting to see where my own work fits into the broader context of storytelling. My strong points are experimental work and



character development," says Leaf.

"It was also great to see my contemporaries in the field."

She is best known for her innovative techniques of manipulating sand on glass and fingerpainting with coloured ink on glass.

Her films include *Peter and the Wolf*, *The Owl Who Married a Goose*, *Orfeo*, *How Beaver Stole Fire*, *The Metamorphosis of Mr. Samsa*.

Leaf is currently working on an original story by Ann Dandurand called *Deux Soeurs*. She is experimenting with scratching images on 70mm film, a process she describes as "crude".

## Green to join the beachboys in B.C.

TORONTO - Canadian actress Janet-Laine Green is much in demand these days with the announcement that she will move from her role as Heather in *Seeing Things*, a CBC Television series, to a regular spot as Dana Battle in *The Beachcombers* when it begins its 17th season on CBC Television in October.



"I'm open to it. I'm free to develop my character and I am working with people who are still very enthusiastic after all these years about what they are doing," says Green.

The 36-year-old actress made her television acting debut in *Range Rider and the Cowboy Kid*, a CBC-television production (Toronto) and has

been seen in two recent feature films, *Cowboys Don't Cry* and *The Believers*.

She is married to actor Booth Savage (*Chasing Rainbows*) and has two young children, Akela and Tyrone.

## Scott scouts rocky terrain

MONTREAL - Eric Scott, a 35-year-old Montrealer and freelance documentary film and television researcher, is busy knocking on doors with a one-hour documentary film proposal promising an undistorted view of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Scott, who spent four years in Israel and who speaks fluent Hebrew (some Arabic), says his film - *Deuteronomy 16.20* -



will attempt to "liberate the documentary from the clutches and conventions of TV journalism" which, he adds, suffers too often from institutional thinking.

Scott proposes to create an intimate portrait of a Palestinian defendant in an Israeli military court with a sharp focus on Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer, known for defending Palestinians. He says the documentary will sidestep rehearsed arguments to reveal what has kept Israelis and Palestinians at each other's throats and what has bound them eternally together.