

## AVC nears completion

The Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) now rising in Charlotte-town is entering 1986 with construction of its facilities at the University of Prince Edward Island on schedule and in budget. Since the sod-turning ceremonies of May 4, 1984, an impressive

structure has risen on what was once a soccer field. The large, brick-faced building with its sloping roofs is the result of a 36.5 (1983 dollars) capital cost-sharing agreement between the federal government and the Atlantic provinces. Ottawa is assuming half

the cost of construction, while New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island are sharing the rest of the expenditure.

1986 also represents a new beginning for the AVC with its first academic year beginning in

September and a class of about 50 undergraduate students arriving for courses. The majority of places will be reserved for Atlantic students.

Dr. Reg Thomson, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, feels that now is a good time to mark the work already completed and look forward to future progress.

"This facility will be of tremendous benefit to Atlantic agriculture and Canadian veterinary practice. The presence of a world class institution here will mean that students no longer have to leave the area to complete their education. The Atlantic Veterinary College will serve as an important resource, keeping skilled persons in the area and bringing others in. Economic benefits will extend throughout the entire region."

The activities of the school will include a strong research program as well as its teaching and service functions. A long-standing shortage of veterinarians involved in research was one of the major reasons for the establishment of the AVC, Canada's fourth veterinary college. This shortage has meant that Canada has had to import veterinarians over the last three decades. The work of the AVC will help to correct this deficit.

Research into disease is gaining increasing importance among efforts to maintain the health of livestock and wild animals. Illness among animal populations is also known to have direct effect on

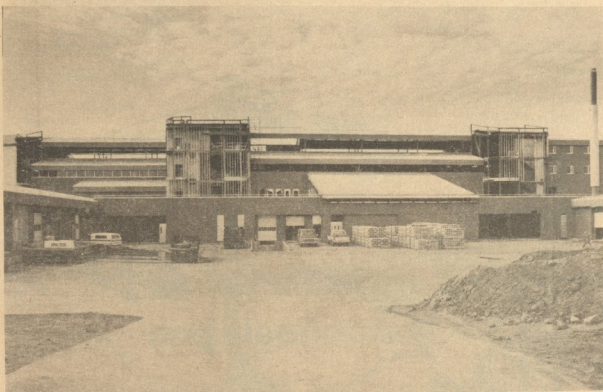
humans. There are economic as well as public health concerns to the studies done at the College. Disease prevention will save farmers a substantial amount of money.

The innovative nature of much of the work to be done at the AVC can be seen in the creation of a Fish Health Laboratory. Aquaculture is expanding globally and here in the Atlantic provinces. The College intends to contribute its part to this field.

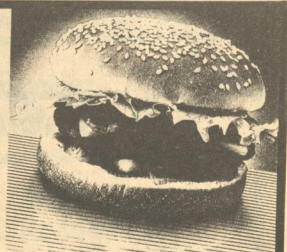
The AVC building is designed to fill all the major demands placed on it. Sixty percent of its space is devoted to hospital and animal functions. A ring road will connect two large, barn-like structures opening onto outdoor entry, exercise, and holding areas. The remaining forty percent of space is between the animal units and will house computer and audio-visual centres, faculty offices, and research diagnostic laboratories. The use of "double hip" and "shed" style roofs will echo farm architecture. Warm red bricks and landscaping will give an appearance to the College in keeping with U.P.E.I.'s historic campus.

All that remains to be done to sections needed by the first year's class is equipment installation and internal finishing. Additions for higher classes will continue to be made until 1989.

As students, faculty and animals take their places, Canada and the Atlantic provinces can take pride in having a first-rate institution.



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