

## CAPSULE

## First bridge driver to win a bundle

CHARLOTTETOWN (CP) — In some ways, the first person to cross the 13-kilometre North-umberland Strait bridge will have the drive of a lifetime.

For only \$10 per ticket, that lucky person will win a 1997 Ford Windstar van to make the drive, a Prince Edward Island vacation for two, tickets to Anne of Green Gables and participation in the official opening ceremonies next June 1.

The Dream Drive Lottery, launched Tuesday, aims to raise more than \$1 million for the Canadian Cancer Society and a local Rotary Club.

Eric Ellsworth, chair of steering committee handling the lottery, said the main focus of the ticket drive will be the tourism market.

At least 200,000 tickets are available.

The draw for the grand prize will be made next May 15.

## Ontario promises to replace obstetricians

TORONTO — Ontario's health minister has promised pregnant women he'll find doctors to deliver their babies if their physicians refuse because of a pay squabble with the government.

"There are other physicians," Jim Wilson said Tuesday. "We are developing contingency plans."

They involve importing doctors from outside Ontario, giving Ontario health insurance billing numbers to doctors who don't have them or using midwives and newly licenced physicians.

Many obstetricians and family doctors who deliver babies plan to stop or have already stopped because the government has stopped subsidizing the high cost of malpractice insurance.

They say it's no longer worthwhile to be in the business of delivering babies.

## Ottawa announces new exhaust standards

TORONTO (CP) — The federal government is introducing new standards for vehicle exhaust as medical evidence mounts that air pollution is affecting health and even killing people in some urban centres.

Environment Minister Sergio Marchi told politicians, environmentalists and industry representatives at a clean air conference Tuesday that new emission standards will take effect for cars in the 1998



Ingrid Bulmer / Herald Photo

Romania's chief prosecutor Eugen Valliu, left, and prosecutor Marian Nazat talk Tuesday about evidence found aboard the Dubai.

# Date may be set today for extradition hearing

By BARRY DOREY  
Crime Reporter

Don't expect any legal bombshells this morning when lawyers and translators for seven Taiwanese ship officers charged with murdering stowaways pack a Halifax courtroom.

Federal prosecutors and defence lawyers only expect to set a date for what promises to be a four- to eight-week extradition hearing.

They'll also schedule dates for bail hearings because prosecutor David Meadows opposes releasing the men before trial.

"It will probably be pretty mundane," says lawyer Duncan Beveridge, who's representing Che-Min Jang, the radio officer aboard the Maersk Dubai.

The only new faces expected in court today are lawyers for the

Taiwanese government, which wants to take control of the case. Toronto-based Greenspan and Associates will represent Taiwan's interest in extraditing the men.

Prosecutors and police from Romania arrived in Halifax over the weekend claiming jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, family members of the seven accused officers are planning trips to Halifax to support their loved ones.

"Their families are obviously concerned with the fact they are in jail," Mr. Beveridge said Tuesday. His client "definitely wants to have a bail hearing and we certainly expect it sooner rather than later," he said.

Mr. Beveridge's client jumped from the vessel and was picked up by coast guard rescuers in Halifax Harbour.

A spokesman for Yang Ming

Marine, owner of the Maersk Dubai, said the man was distraught over his ill wife and wasn't afraid to remain on the ship, which finally left port for Newark, N.J., at about 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Eight Filipino sailors aboard the ship say officers forced three Romanian stowaways overboard — two in March, another in May — to die in the Atlantic Ocean.

The sailors hid a fourth man and turned him over to authorities in Halifax when the ship docked.

An extradition hearing must take place within 60 days, but it's possible it could be delayed longer if lawyers can't juggle their schedules, Mr. Beveridge said.

The case is complicated by overlapping jurisdictions, international law and the fact both Romania and Taiwan want to extradite the men.

## Romanians identify stowaways

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The evidence, plus statements from Filipino crewmembers who reported the crimes to Halifax area police when the Dubai arrived here

'Before forensic tests are done the fact that

Mr. Pasca in recent days.

The Romanians say they have clear jurisdiction and cited two legal precedents. The first is a section of their criminal code,