

# Ottawa remembers Bob Marley

From John Keating

OTTAWA, May 17

It wasn't hard in this part of Canada to remember the second anniversary a few days ago of Bob Marley's death.

There were radio and television specials, news of the unacceptable Marley statue in Kingston got much play — and fans of the late reggae king put on a successful "Ottawa Remembers Bob Marley" jam session.

Three bands played at this shindig: Le Dub Sac, Unity, and Sons of The Conquering Lion. The function had the full blessing of the Jamaican High Commissioner, and High Commissioner, Leslie Wilson, was presented with the guest book of the evening with hundreds of signatures, for him to present to Marley's widow, Mrs. Rita Marley.

The "Ottawa Remembers Bob Marley" to-do was a very lively affair, and over 400 persons attended. It was staged under the auspices of CKCU-FM ra-



dio station and an outfit called "Reggae In The Fields." But, man behind it all was Jamaican statistician and CKCU-FM Saturday afternoons reggae show disc jockey, Junior Smith, who made the guest book presentation to the High Commissioner.

The function Saturday

night, May 14, was the second of its kind held here by the same promoters, to honour the anniversary of Marley's death in 1981. The first was held last year, but the venue this time around — the Ottawa Civic Centre — was much larger.

The day before the Marley death anniversary, one of Canada's three national pay television channels, C-Channel, aired a Marley concert. A few days after that, the local cablevision community channels telecast yet another Marley concert, and interviews with him.

All of this clashed with heavy radio, television and newspaper reports of the "grotesque" Marley statue in Jamaica, unveiling of which was aborted by Prime Minister Edward Seaga, the reports said.

The Toronto Star ran the report under a four-column headline: "Nude Marley Statue going to Museum", and went on to describe the work as "a seven-foot statue, depicting Marley naked, with his eyes closed, a microphone in his hand, and a guitar over his shoulder."

Ottawa's "Citizen" newspaper said irate Jamaicans, "burning up over a modern-art statue" of the reggae legend, "pelted the statue with rocks and fruit", because they disliked the statue, which "depicted Marley with a distorted face and a tree trunk for a lower body."

Daily Gleaner, May 30, 1983, p. 4.