

# Canadian Climate Centre's rendez-vous

It was more than a brush with nostalgia, or a parade of past accomplishments. It was confirmation that after 10 years of Herculean efforts, a key AES Directorate is alive and well and earnestly seeking new ways to meet the challenges of the 90s — global climate change, new research techniques and additional responsibilities to supply politically-oriented climate advice to governments and decision makers.

On June 12 the Canadian Climate Centre (CCC) celebrated its 10th anniversary at the AES Downsview Headquarters Building with speeches, awards, slides, lobby displays and a jumbo birthday cake. The audience which filled the Downsview auditorium for nearly two hours, included both past and present members of the CCC, other AES employees and a small number of VIPs, some of whom played a major role in the Centre's founding, back in the 70s. Among the special guests was Dave Rodenhuis, director of the Climate Analysis Center (CAC) in Washington D.C. who earlier that day had given a seminar on the evolution of the CAC, also 10 years old.

Former CCC directors general, Morley Thomas and Dr. Barney Boville and former acting DG Gordon McKay outlined every aspect of the daring adventure that led to the setting up of one of the world's first climate centres, a highly skilled organization that possessed sufficient expertise to be able to advise the World Meteorological Organization on establishing its own World Climate Program. The CCC's major accomplishments were praised and stories told of the Centre's fight to obtain suitable space on the fourth floor of the Downsview building. The gradual build up of computer archiving (starting with punch cards) and initiation of research activities at the CCC were also explained.

The guest speaker was Dr. Arthur Collin, ADM at AES 1977-80 when the CCC was being planned and launched. Bridging the gap between past and present, Dr. Collin said that he was convinced in those days that Canada could provide world leadership not only in weather and earth sciences, but also in climate and that the people he led at AES had "a vision".

Switching to the present, Dr. Collin said there had been an astounding change in atti-



*The principal participants at the CCC's 10th anniversary celebrations watch as Marilyn Lemaire cuts the Birthday Cake. They are, left to right, former CCC director general, Barney Boville, former ADMA Dr. Art Colin, director of the Climatological Applications Branch Nancy Cutler, former CCC DG Jim McCulloch, present director general Dr. Kirk Dawson, former acting DG Gord McKay and former DG Morley Thomas.*

tude among the world's governments toward global climate issues, so much so that climate was now on the agenda of the "international mind-set of nations", with atmospheric scientists playing key roles.

While emphasizing the role of the private sector in today's meteorology, Dr. Collin said that Canadians will always look to the national weather service to fill their basic weather needs. In addition, he said that AES will continue to play a scientific leadership role on both the national and international stage. "In fact", continued Dr. Collin, "AES has set an example to the entire Canadian public service in the recruitment, training and deployment of highly skilled personnel. The level of expertise in other government services is slipping . . . but not at AES, where scientists continue to feel very much at home."

Dr. Kirk Dawson, appointed DG of the Climate Centre in November, 1988, looked forward to the next 10 years at the CCC. He said that the Centre was passing from adolescence to adulthood and would henceforth be called



*Former CCC director general Jim McCulloch displays a certificate bearing the names and a photograph of nearly all the people who have been with the Canadian Climate Centre during its 10 year existence.*

# with Past, Present and Future

upon to give expert advice to governments and decision makers at very short notice. He added that the CCC's priorities will continue to be data management, research, climate analysis and operational services. "It isn't what we do that will change but how we do it" added Dr. Dawson.

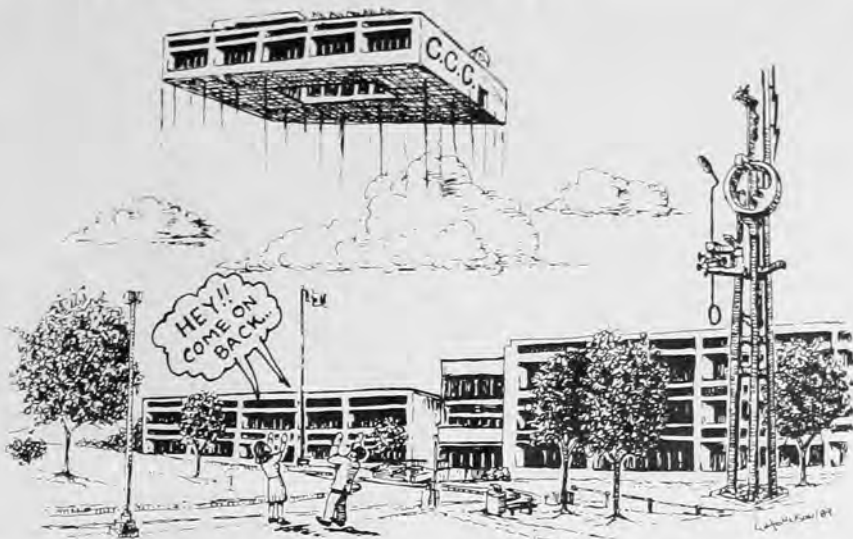
Commenting on research strategy, Dr. Dawson added that renewed emphasis on climate modelling will depend on the expertise and computer power available under budgetary restraints. Referring to another area of Climate Centre activities, Dr. Dawson added, "over the next 10 years I envisage a renewed commitment to our fundamental business and continuing improvements in the content, quality and accessibility of the national archive, especially as we try to integrate data from the new radar satellites and automatic weather stations".

Referring to the Global Climate System, Dr. Dawson added that major research problems have still to be addressed: the role of oceans, clouds, sea ice and the hydrological cycle. "Together with the research community, we are starting to put together a climate research strategy for Canada in the 90s," he concluded.

The CCC ceremony also included distribution of awards to highly deserving Climate Centre personnel. Winners of Directorate Level Citation of Excellence Awards were Joe Megyes for developing a unique processing system for solar radiation data; Paul Lavoie for his development of AES guidelines for cooperative climate autostations; Valerie Moore and Una Ellis for excellence in preparing the world-wide distribution list for the Proceedings of the Changing Atmosphere Conference (Toronto, 1988) and Janet Isaac for organizing the 1989 Cancer Daffodil Campaign at AES Downsview.

Unable to be present for their awards were Alain Caillet and Robert Schultz who were recognized for work in applying computer technology to the production of Climatic Perspectives.

In addition, Jim McCulloch, another former director general of the CCC, presented a scroll which recognized through a list of names and a group photo, all employees who have worked continuously at the Centre since its opening in 1979. The scroll original accepted by David Phillips on behalf of the group, will hang



*Invitations sent out to request participation in the Canadian Climate Centre's 10th Anniversary celebrations included a drawing of the AES Downsview Headquarters Building with a detached fourth floor Climatology section hovering slightly above the rest of the establishment. On the big day itself the CCC really "lifted off" and artist Bill Johnson redid his drawing specially for Zephyr to illustrate this thought.*



*Recipients of Directorate-level Citation of Excellence Awards are seen with CCC director general Dr. Kirk Dawson (right). They are, left to right, Una Ellis, Valerie Moore, Joe Megyes, Paul Louie and Janet Isaac.*

in a prominent location in the CCC. Each of the 49 employees concerned later received a copy of the scroll. David Phillips also presented a spectacular multi-screen musical slide show with nostalgic photos of nearly everyone connected with the CCC over the past decade.

After formal ceremonies, Anniversary cake

and fruit punch were served to all guests outdoors on the CCC patio.

The master of ceremonies was Peter Scholefield of CCRM and proceedings were opened by Nancy Cutler, director, Climate Applications Branch. A reception was held on the CCC patio.