

Bill Kiely's guide to the AES Super-Lobby



Two employees relaxing on a sofa contemplating a complex scene — this sets the mood of one of AES's lesser know showpieces, the large, attractive lobby of the Downsview Headquarters Building. The array of instruments, both operational and historic, plus several other display items, form a sort of mini-exhibition, livened up with flags, banners, tapestries, climbing plants and a polished stone floor.

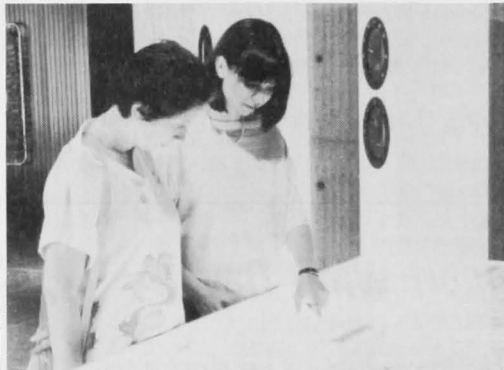
Jim McCulloch, director general, Central Services Directorate whose office adjoins the lobby, says the show was never planned and simply grew up "by accident". Originally there were just a few antique instruments and some dials linked up to the instrument compound outside. He recalls the day when the operational weather radar screen was installed

and he considers the lobby reached permanent exhibition status when display cases went up to house a unique collection of antique weather instruments. Mr. McCulloch adds he especially likes the contrasts: a 130-year anemometer beside the ultra-modern — TABS pilot briefer, for example. Mr. McCulloch foresees the day (budget permitting) when lobby exhibits will be deliberately planned and areas set aside for both temporary and permanent displays.

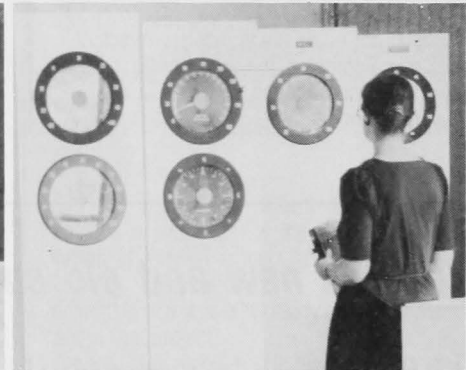
Bill Kiely, in charge of the AES audio-visual section, considers the lobby a unique piece of AES "scenery" because it is evolving at an incredible rate. As these photos show, Bill sees the area as both a people place and as a record of weather technology spanning nearly two centuries.



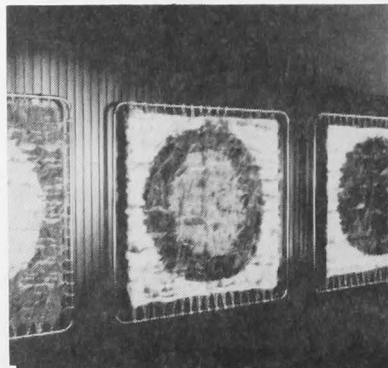
Begin the tour by joining Mary Rossetti-Longarini at the antique instrument showcase, the splendid collection that forms the piece de resistance of the whole lobby.



You can obtain an immediate overview of the weather by studying the maps and charts laid out on a table near the parameter dials. Nancy Hamer points out an item in the general synopsis to Lorraine Kiely.



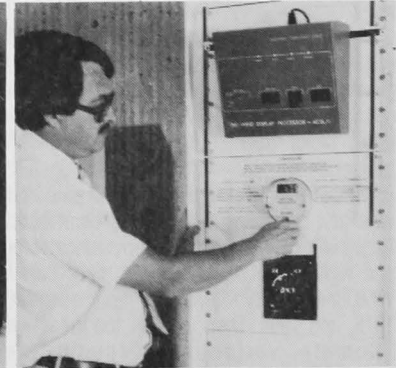
Next obtain a run-down of all weather parameters including temperature and relative humidity, wind speed and wind direction, pressure and monthly precipitation. Karin Schasmin studies the pressure dial.



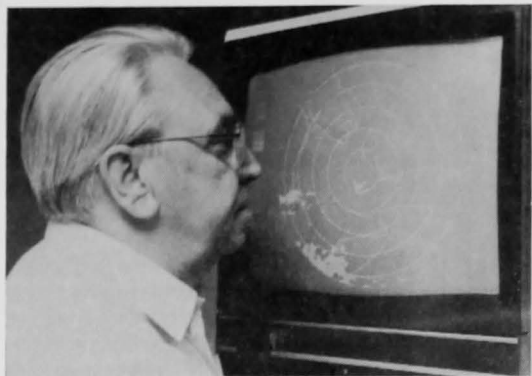
As a change from meteorology you can admire the textured tapestries adorning the area are the Auditorium — sewn by the wife of sculptor Ron Baird, who forged the huge weather sculpture on the front lawn.



These old-time mercury barometers seem to have taken over the lobby's rest area for a conference of their own.



If you want maximum and minimum temperature information for the past nine days you can emulate Brian Taylor and actuate a switch. Other parts of the module give accurate wind information.



Bill Johnson is seen here obtaining the local severe weather picture from the lobby's weather radar screen, directly linked to the King City radar station.



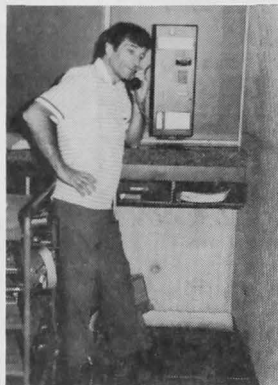
AES Ice Reconnaissance Services are not forgotten. Enclosed in the plastic dome is a model of the sophisticated new DASH-7 now being used by our ice observers.



Commissionaire Gasper Belen's desk is the hub of the lobby. If you want information on any aspect of the building he is more than ready to respond. Even while on the phone he has to keep an eye on the monitor that does surveillance on 10 areas of the building.



The lobby has other practical aspects: you can avail yourself of this oxygen unit and/or stretcher if the grand tour proves too much for you.



The lobby also contains the building's only pay phone. That's why Gilles Tardif feels comfortable making a personal call — no one can listen in on another extension.



The lobby also salutes leading weather people of the past. High up beneath the banners is part of the "Downsview Wall" a portrait gallery of former meteorological directors. Flanking the commissionaire's desk are historic building pictures.



Lastly, Bill Kiely is seen activating one of the lobby's more recent installations — the TABS (Telidon Aviation Briefing Service) a rapid means for pilots to obtain auto-briefings on aviation weather, but an attraction exhibit for all AES employees.