

# zephyr

ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE NEWSLETTER

November-December 1990

## 150 And Still Going Strong

Recent celebrations across the country surrounding the 150th Anniversary of Continuous Weather Observing took many forms: some elaborate, others quiet and several involving the media.

Beyond all the pomp and circumstance, let us look at the reason for the celebrations, the reason the occasion was important, the reason it all works...PEOPLE.

On September 10, Pacific region's Pat Pender, Margart Phelan and a crew of reporters flew by helicopter to Cape Scott, located on the northern tip of Vancouver Island. There they presented long-time Cape Scott lighthouse keepers Don and Linda Weeden an award and gift for their continued service in the lighthouse weather observation program.

On McGill campus in Montreal, an event was held in late October in recognition of the pioneering efforts of Dr. Smallwood who set up Quebec's first official observatory there 117 years ago. Also for the month of October the "History of Weather



*Actors and weather observer Jiri Werner illustrate past and present observation methods at Toronto ceremony.*

Observing in Canada" display was on exhibit at the Nova Scotia Museum. Senior AES historian Morley Thomas gave a talk on weather observing in Canada, at the museum.

In Brandon, plaques were presented to the Agriculture Canada Station to commemorate 100 years of observing. Mrs. Marjorie Mathison accepted an award on behalf of her family who has been taking observations near Hamiota, Manitoba for 60 years. Awards were also presented to long-time weather and climate observers in Western region.

The largest celebration was the one that took place on September 5th on the University of Toronto campus. While weather broadcasters across the

country wore sweatshirts bearing a replica of the postage stamp marking the anniversary, guests of the celebration enjoyed the unveiling of an historic plaque, historical re-enactments of the first weather observation and the music of the Royal Canadian Artillery Band. A crew of organizers from Ontario region and Downsview included: John Mills, Nancy Cutler, David Phillips, Gordon Black, Brian Kirkpatrick, Tom Hacking, Brenda Smith....and many more.

While the events were special in their own right, they all recognized the efforts of individuals. We owe the tradition of 150 years to our hundreds of climate and weather observers and to people like those mentioned above.

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## The Face Behind Zephyr

*continued from page 1*

But most of all, we owe this tradition to the people of AES. For 150 years weather service employees have been contributing to the vast collection of data which is necessary in the preparation of forecasts and over the long-term, of vital use to scientists studying global warming and other climatic shifts likely to affect our environment.

In Downsview on September 6 there was a gathering with cake and coffee, a tribute to the continuing hard work of employees. ADM Elizabeth Dowdeswell noted the service of AES employees everywhere.

### You said....

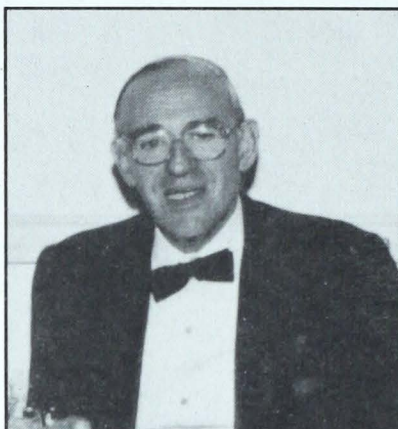
We can't thank you enough for your response to the bright yellow Zephyr surveys. An astounding 610 of just over 2,500 employees responded by the August deadline. And here it is November and we're still getting yellow mail.

You told us you like staff changes and AES news the best, and staff leisure activities and health and safety articles the least. Most of you like Zephyr every three months but then again, many of you felt the information was out of date at that frequency.

The comments on the surveys were quite consistent and very telling. Most of you felt there was not enough regional content, and too much coverage of Downsview staff and management.

We'll try to balance the content a little more and improve the timeliness. But, if you don't tell us what's happening in your office, nobody else will know either.

Once again, thank you for your input and keep in mind we will continue to need feedback on how we're doing.



*Gordon Black*

Many see Zephyr as a friend who visits every few months with information about colleagues, work and the like. For the last decade, Gordon Black has been the face behind Zephyr. As Gordon moves on to other communications activities within AES, let's take a look at the man behind the magazine.

Before Gordon came to AES, he was Public Relations Director of the French Government Tourist Office in Canada. Before that, he was on the PR staff at Expo 67 and free-lanced for various media including the Toronto Star, Toronto Sun, Canadian Living and Toronto Life.

Gordon is deeply involved with the Canadian Science Writers Association, and as a non-scientist has brought a different perspective to AES. Few know that Gordon is a playwright; one of his plays was staged in Montreal several years ago. Or that he enjoys classical music, is a science fiction buff, a swimmer and a stamp collector. Gordon was instrumental in securing the postage stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary. It is also not widely known that Gordon could publish Zephyr in not only English and French but, Spanish or German as well. He picked up a

few of these skills at Cambridge University in his native England where he completed a Masters degree in linguistics and undergraduate work in economics.

One of Gordon's favorite Zephyr stories was his 1983 eye-witness report on El Chichón. Eight months after the eruption of this Mexican volcano, Gordon visited the site on one of many of his international vacations. Renting an airplane to fly over the volcano, he brought the inside scoop home to Zephyr. Gordon also remembers with fondness working with cartoonist Fouad Fanaki and the uproar some of his politically sensitive cartoons caused.

Gordon liked the breadth and freedom that editorship of Zephyr brought him. He enjoyed toting around his little Olympus camera and taking his own photographs, but wishes he could have spent more time visiting the regions.

We thank Gordon for years of enjoyable reading. Leslie Buchanan-Jones of Communications Directorate in Downsview is our new editor.

## Go Green



## Staff Saves Station From Fire

Through advance preparation and ingenuity, the staff and residents of the Cree Lake Weather Station saved the station from a raging fire. They acted with "composure, resourcefulness, and bravery in the face of a very serious crisis," said Brian Kahler, Acting Chief, Data Acquisition. (Central Region).

Smoke was sighted by the residents of the isolated northern Saskatchewan station on August 7. Later the same day it appeared the smoke had moved to within 4 km of the station. While cooler temperatures and calmer winds kept the fire in check over the next few days, the staff and residents prepared for the inevitable.

The equipment was moved into the compound and the buildings wet down, while mechanic Joe King rigged a makeshift fire truck from the station's tractor, trailer, pump and fire hose. Firefighters from the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources flew in to install sprinklers to protect the fuel tank and CAPMON areas.

Water bombers were called when the the warm windy weather returned on August 12. Believing the fire would be impossible to stop at this point, the firefighters evacuated, taking the



*Picture of fire taken by Ann Page after evacuating .*

wives in three of the four boats across the bay.

Station manager Rob Page, Joe King and weather observers Gerald Pelland and Leroy Meeches stayed on. While Page and Pelland used backpack extinguishers to put out small blazes, the fire came within 200 meters of the fuel tanks which contained 200,000 litres of diesel fuel. As the foursome were about to flee, water bombers arrived carrying a fire retardant chemical which was dropped over the fuel tanks and buildings.

Page claimed the bombers saved the station. He said, "The moss that grows to the edge of the fuel storage tanks was burned to within six feet of

the tanks." If the fire had consumed the fuel tanks, there would have been no way of saving the station from complete destruction.

By early in the evening, the combination of the water bombers and heavy rain snuffed the fire out completely. The fire destroyed the areas to the west and north of the station. The ground and the few trees left standing were black. The station, however, emerged almost unscathed; only a cement mixer and a snowmobile were damaged. And the fuel tanks, although blackened by the blaze, remained intact.

Central Region was quick to recognize the outstanding efforts of the Cree Lake staff and residents. Each of the four staff members was presented with a Regional Citation of Excellence and all six residents, were presented with "I survived the fire at Cree Lake" T-shirts. A plaque recognizing the contributions of all the residents will go on display at the station.



*Brock Goalen (A/Supt. Surface Stations) Rita King, Joe King, Gerald Pelland, Rob Page, Anne Page, Leroy Meeches, Brian Kahler*



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## AES Brewer Used Worldwide

### New Weather Services Office For B.C.

Pacific Region is gearing up to open the first of a new breed of AES weather offices - the WSO (Weather Services Office). Kelowna, in the Southern Interior of B.C., has been chosen as the site for the new state-of-the-art facility.

Located in the heart of the community it will serve, the new WSO is part of the AES modernization plan to revamp its weather services, and bring better forecasts to the local area. The office will provide accurate short-range weather forecasts tailored for B.C.'s Southern Interior.

The WSO will likely be built on the campus of the new Okanagan College. This location would provide opportunities for cooperative efforts with the college and other government agencies.

The new facility is slated for completion by the fall of 1992. David Phillips has been named regional WSO Implementation Manager, and he has assembled a team which is now grappling with a myriad of tasks. A new weatheradio network must be established for the Southern Interior, a WSO workstation is being developed, the latest technology for voice synthesis of weather forecasts is being investigated, an expansion of the existing surface observing network has begun, and products and services are being reviewed.

So, if you get a busy signal next time you call Pacific Region, you will know why!

A more timely method of retrieving data from the Brewer Spectrophotometer recently brought Greek and Italian scientists to Downsview, where Tom McElroy (ARQX) demonstrated new observing routines.

The Brewer, invented by Jim Kerr, Tom McElroy and David Wardle of Experimental Studies Division (ARQX) measures atmospheric ozone, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide by measuring their effect on the spectrum of light from the sun, the moon and the sky. The instrument was first produced commercially in 1983 and there are now approximately 31 in place around the world.

The visitors traveled to Downsview to learn how to use recently developed software based on many years of re-

search by Carl Mateer (retired). The program will allow researchers to determine a vertical profile of ozone at the site, using the personal computer which controls and collects data from the Brewer. This is called the Umkehr method.

In turn, the AES scientists learned about new techniques being developed in Greece for managing data from the Brewer and about the operation by the Italians of a Brewer at Scott Base in Antarctica.

Visitors Luigi Ciattaglia and Carlo Valenti from Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche in Rome, Italy and Alkis Bais of the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki in Northern Greece and AES benefitted from this exchange.

### Awards, Awards...

**Departmental Award of Excellence** Dennis Stossel, (Central Region) for exceptional work performance including the promotion of Canadian polar science and lasting contributions to AES and the scientific community

**Regional Award of Excellence** Al Keating, Brian Murphy and team (OWC and Toronto WO4) for excellent team effort in forecasting and warning the residents of southwestern Ontario of the outbreak of tornadoes on August 28th, (The WO4 London will be presented similar awards).

**David Phillips, (CCC)** by Ontario Region in recognition for the outstanding contribution to the planning and organization of the 150th Anniversary of Continuous Weather Observing Celebration.

**25 Year Long-term Service Awards (Western Region)** Joe Kotylak, Hans Schinke, Gary Atchison, Ron Harrison,

**Regional Citation of Excellence** Ron Harrison - for promotion of AES in the community, continued high level of work performance and involvement in bringing Weatheradio to Lethbridge.

**All Seasons Research Award** Jadwiga Zarzycki, Peter Summers, Dave Davies, Frank Froud and Kathleen Ford - awarded by colleagues in recognition of significant contributions towards achieving the goals of Air Quality, Research Branch.

**Award of Merit**

Benoit Simard, Ice Services Specialist - by Transport Canada for participating in a ship rescue operation.



## Downsview Bids Farewell To DGs

On September 19, employees of Downsview bid "au revoir" to two long-term AES employees, Alex Chisholm and Jim Young.

Alex, has worked with AES for over 16 years. He started as a weather forecaster and left as the Director-General of Research. Alex is known for commencing Doppler Radar research in Canada and for his work on the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. At the end of 1989 he moved to Ottawa to become the DOE Senior Science Advisor.

Jim Young was Executive Director of CIRAC in 1989 when he was asked to fill the position left vacant by Dr. Chisholm. Jim joined AES in 1973 as a research scientist, yet filled various positions outside AES since. Some of the highlights of Jim's career with AES include work on the Canada/USA Memorandum of Intent on Acid Rain, the upgrade of CAPMON and involvement in the delivery of the York University Chair in Atmospheric Chemistry. Jim has joined a private sector consulting firm. Best of luck to you both.

## PS 2000: A Time For Change

Employees - perhaps better than anyone - understand the need for change in the public service. In their effort to provide quality service to Canadians, they are often frustrated by outdated and unnecessary procedures.

Public Service 2000 is a major renewal of the federal bureaucracy. Its purpose is to simplify government operations and improve service to the public. The goal is to put more trust in the good judgement of employees instead of relying on controls from

## Weather and Climate For All

Remember David Phillips, the charismatic and enlightening scientist who brought us the **Weather Trivia Calendar**? This time Phillips is back, with **The Climates of Canada**, a colourful tale of Canada's "blessing and curse"...the weather.

Phillips was anxious to put together a publication that explains weather and climate in layman's terms. Aside from being a great reference for any MT or EG, it's both a resource book for your student and a fun read for just about anyone. In addition to colourful weather information by province, a glossary of weather terms and climate data from selected cities, **The Climates of Canada** has interesting trivia to tickle the fancy of all weather buffs.

Phillips will be on a Canadian media tour during November and December. **The Climates of Canada** is available at bookstores associated with the Canadian Government Publishing Centre. Order by calling (819) 956-4802 or by sending \$19.95 plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling to: Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0S9.

above. By removing obstacles to good service and putting faith in each other, all public servants should enjoy more satisfying careers.

PS 2000 must not be looked upon as strictly an exercise in revising legislation or seeking government approval for a few changes. PS 2000 is about changing attitudes and about initiatives and changes to simplify the process, that managers and employees can take on their own authority. Let's look forward to the changes with optimism.

**Look for the  
Go Green  
Campaign  
Coming Soon**

## The International Front

**Second World Climate Conference (Oct. 29 - Nov. 7)**

Heads of State, Ministers and scientists from over 100 countries met in Geneva to consider the results of the study prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The study recommended the international community develop a global Climate Change Convention and provide further direction on actions to be taken. Minister de Cotret lead the Canadian delegation.

**Montreal Chosen As Site For Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund (Sept. 21)**

Montreal was chosen as the headquarters for the UN Secretariat of the new Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund. Under the direction of the 14-nation Executive Committee, the Secretariat of approximately 20 individuals will administer an international fund of at least \$160 million US and as much as \$240 million US in the first three years. The Fund, the first ever created to assist developing countries meet international environmental obligations, was established in London last June to help phase out CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances worldwide. John Reid and Hans Martin are part of the Canadian delegation to the Executive Committee.



## On The Move ...

### Appointment

**Anker, C.** to Branch Admin. Clerk (AWFH)

**Latyszewskyj, M.** from NRC to Head Information Resource Centre (IRC)

### Assignment

**Desautels, G.** from MT Scientific Services (QAES) to Ass. Res. MT, (CMC)

**Élie, M.** from Tech., Maniwaki to Inspector, (QAEOI)

**Fung-Fook, I.** to Secretary to AWDG

**Funnell, L.** from pol. adv. (APPA) to Adv. to ADM

**Gélinas, F.** from WO4 Sept-Iles to WO4 Mirabel

**Hewson, M.** from shift sup. Gander to Min. Corresp. (METL)

**Jones, J.** from Admin Officer(APEC) to Improve./Implem. Officer (IRC)

**Regan M.** from Instructor TCTI to Policy Advisor (APPA) Ottawa

**Saunders, R.** to Chief, Office of AWDH

**Shaykewich, J.** to Dots Program Liaison Officer (AWPC)

**Smith, S.F.** from Admin. Officer (ACDA) to Plan. Coord. (A/ACDG/E)

**Vanek, K.** to Head, MIS (AWDH)

**Wallace, D.** from Supervisor Acct. Ops. (AAFA) to Admin Officer (ACDG)

### Competition

**Duffy, M.** from Head, Research Sys. (ARMA) to Head, Tech. Support (ACTR/O)

### Death

**Labelle J.** former CAED

**Wright, D.** former METL

### Departure

**Bourque, D.** from Met. Dev. CMQ

**Guy, R.** from Sys. Anal. (AWDH) to Sys. Anal. Prog. DOE Ottawa

**Pussar, M.** from Senior Network Advisor (ACPN)

### Lateral Transfer

**Aldcroft, A.E.** from Chief, Impl. Div. (ACSI) to Proj. Mgr. Doppler Radar (ACSI)

**Driedger, N.** from Sen. Computer Sys. Anal. (ACTR) to Prog. Anal. (ARMD)

**Flemming B.** from Head, Tech. Support (ACTR) to Super., Sen. Sys. Anal. (MAED)

**McCollor D.** from WAEM to PAEM

**Snyder B.** from Comox CFB to PAEM

### Leave of Absence

**Kurchina, P.**

### New

**Bezant, R.** to Ass. Life Cycle Mgr. (ACSO) from DND Toronto

**Graves, J.** to Computer Consultant (ACPT)

**Lenarcik, J.** to Archive Manager (ACSO)

**Maloney, P.** to Ass. Life Cycle Mgr. (ACSO) from Coast Guard

**Nickerson, S.** to Met. Tech. Van. WS3 from TCTI

**O'Neil, J.** Editor (QAEW)

**Rudner, A.** to Senior Network Advisor (ACPN)

**Ruseckas V.** to Software Specialist (ACPX)

**Ryan, N.** to Computer Consultant (ACPN)

**Shaw, B.** to Cape St. James WS from TCTI to Met. Tech.

**Stapleton H.** to Official Languages and Class. Officer from TD Bank, Toronto

**Stewart, J.** Secretary (ACSL)

**Stiles, D.** to Ass. Life Cycle Mgr. (ACSO) from DND, Ottawa

**Yurkewich, D.,** Secretary (ACSO)

### Promotions

**Barrett, S.** from Class. Ass., Human Resources to Class. Officer C&P Burlington

**Belilse, S.** to Finance Officer(AWFH)

**Bertolone, L.** MT (AWSC)

**Champagne, L.** from Sur. Tech.

**Dorval** to Upper Air Tech. Inukjuak

**Henry, D.** from Ass. Life Cycle Mgr. (ACSQ) to Quality Assurance Officer

(ACSQ)

**Manchip, K.** from (ACPN) to Network Doc. Officer

**Roy, S.** from MT Scientific Services(QAES) to MT Ops. (CMC)

**Bilodeau, B.** Ass. Res. MT (CMC), to Ass. Res. MT Dorval

**Oja, E.** to Assessment MT(AWDH)

**Williams V.** from Van. to A/OIC Cape St. James WO4

**Wilson, B.** from Quality Assurance Officer (ACSO) to Instr. Dev. Tech. (ACSL)

### Retirement

**Low, J.** from Systems Prog. Anal. (ACPO)

### Transfer

**Armour, S.** from Head, Personnel Ops. (CSD) to Class. and Training Officer C&P Van.

**David, A.** from Head Personnel Ops. ARD/CCC/WCD to Head, Personnel Ops. (CSD)

**Ferland, A.** from MT CFB Portage La Prairie to Instructor TCTI

**Lamontagne, S.** from Admin. Ass. Van. to Class. and Official Lang. Ass., Downsview

**Lauzé, G.** from Training and Employment Equity Off. (AHRS), to Staff Relations and Compensation Off.(AHRR)

**Magee, S.** from Hum. Res. Advisor C&P to Hum. Res. Advisor (PAEP)

**Marquis, B.** from MT CFB, Trenton to Instructor TCTI

**Méthot, A.** from Met. Dev. OWC to Met. Dev. CMQ,

**Neale, D.** from Exec. Ass. ADM to Assoc. Liaison Officer, METL

**Pommainville, P.** from MT CFB Trenton to MT CMQ

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