zephyr

ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE NEWSLETTER

May-June 1991

AES celebrates Environment Week

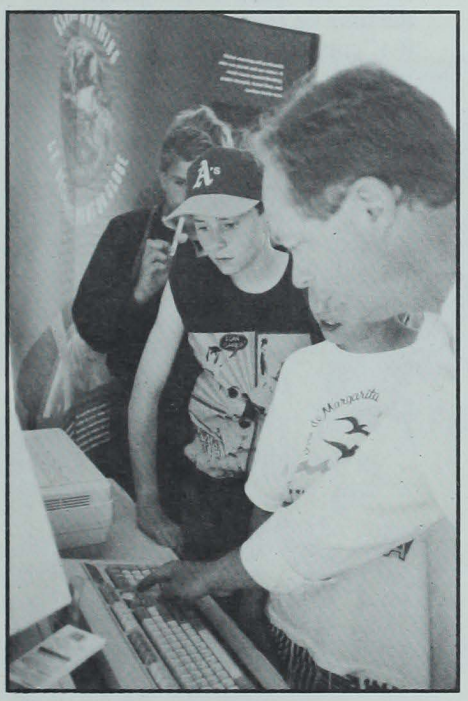
For one week every year, Environment Canada employees turn on the creativity and increase their efforts to promote environmental awareness among Canadians. This year's 20th anniversary of Canadian Environment Week was no exception. Over 800 events were organized to appeal to every sector of the population, to encourage Canadians to join in and do their part.

AES Central Region held a successful "pre-Environment Week" open house to celebrate the relocation of the Thompson, Manitoba weather office to a storefront location. Continuing the festivities, there was an exhibit at the City Centre Mall and AES employees gave talks on global warming at the local high school.

While AES Atlantic Region opened the doors of their Weather Centers and WO4s and invited people in, Pacific Region went out to spread the word with an Automatic Weather Station, slides on climate change and ozone depletion and the new marine weather awareness video.

In Edmonton and Calgary, Western Region organized a public panel titled "What can be done about Climate Change?" Other government departments, business, industry and the general public joined the discussions.

Several Ontario Region employees spent time at the annual Harbourfront Environment Week Festival speaking with the public about various topics including weather and environmental emergencies.



Rai King OIC Ottawa Weather Office talks to students at the Children's Environmental Festival

Quebec Region seized the opportunity to distribute the new weather services video to secondary schools and to make a number of announcements such as the opening of the WO4 in Jonquiere, the upgrade in Baie Comeau and the expansion of the Weatheradio network.

In Downsview the focus was on the employees. Minister of State for the Environment, Pauline Browes was on hand to open the exhibit "Risque d'averse"/"Chance of Showers" loaned for the week by Quebec artist Diane Landry. A myriad of activities for employees included an environmental tips contest, a clean-up your office day and a day for litterless lunches.

The country's largest event was held in Jacques Cartier Park in Ottawa. AES set up a functioning weather station and climate change and ice displays as part of the Children's Environmental Festival. Also in the park, on June 5, "World Environment Day" Environment Canada employees from the National Capital Region and their families participated in a departmental picnic.

Congratulations AES on another successful Environment Week.

Environment Canada | Environnement Canada

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Think recycling

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MOP brings Funnell opportunities

Larry Funnell is one of the increasing number of AES employees who has made a career transition. Larry was a supervisor in the Winnipeg Weather Office when he joined the Management Orientation Program (MOP) in 1986. Five years, four directorates and three cities later, Larry is now Special Assistant to the ADM.

It was a landmark occasion for technicians and other non-professional staff, when all employees were invited to apply for the program designed to train the future senior managers of AES. Previously enrollment had been limited to meteorologists.

Larry Funnell in his Ottawa office

Larry's decision to enter the MOP program was not an easy one. He was excited and intrigued by the career opportunities and challenges, yet there were tough personal decisions to be made. MOP would take him away from his wife, two teenaged sons and home in Winnipeg for eighteen months. But, with his family's support and assurance that he would be home every third week for a visit, he accepted.

While reporting to CAED, ACDG, AWPD and APDG in Winnipeg, Downsview and Ottawa respectively, Larry was involved in the day-to-day management of these offices and undertook a number of projects including: developing the District Officer concept for Central Region, reviewing the AES Policy on Life Cycle Management and participating in joint aviation weather planning activities with Transport Canada and DND. One particular highlight was the time he spent in Ottawa learning the "corporate nature" of AES and the Department.

Since completing MOP in 1989, Larry has put the skills and knowledge learned during the program to good use - first as a Policy Analyst, and for the past six months, as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Deputy Minister.

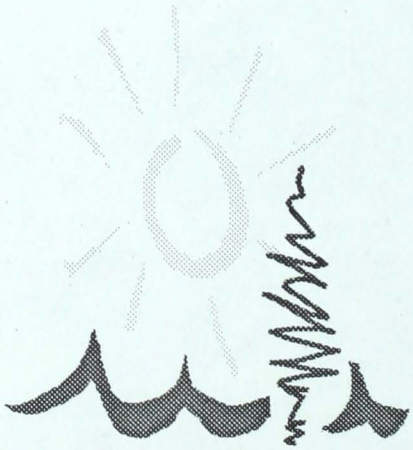
When asked about his feelings of accomplishment, Larry said "satisfaction and pride come to mind first. I think I proved to myself and to others that it is possible for technicians to break out of the traditional mold and take on even the most challenging management roles."

Although Larry enjoyed his years as a technician, he does not regret his decision to expand his horizons. "I would encourage anyone," he said, "whether it is through continued education, developmental assignments or through programs such as MOP, to seize the opportunity to gain experience outside of your area of speciality."

AES and the Green Plan

April 29 - Arctic Environmental Strategy

Environment Minister Jean Charest and Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development unveiled a $100 million Green Plan initiative designed to protect the Arctic's fragile environment and preserve the health of Northern people. AES will be involved in the $35 million program to identify, reduce and wherever possible eliminate chemical contaminants like PCBs and DDT that have found their way by air and water from other regions into the food of northern people.



May 17 - Doppler Radar

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Don Mazankowski unveiled the Doppler weather radar installation in Edmonton. The Doppler will provide up to thirty minutes advance warning when tornadoes and other severe storms threaten lives and property. This Doppler radar was the first of four promised in the Green Plan. Mazankowski recognized the volunteer weather observers calling them "an irreplaceable component to the technological tracking of the weather systems." Following the announcement the Deputy Prime Minister viewed the Doppler at the Alberta Weather Center.

CMC and RPN improve medium range forecast model

Acting Director of CMC, Pierre Dubreuil, recently took the opportunity to praise CMC and RPN employees for their exceptional work leading to the implementation of a global analysis and forecast system. Since its creation, CMC had only operated hemispheric models. This change to a global system brings Canadian models in line with the best in the world.

Dubreuil said "it is reassuring and gratifying that the quality and dedication of our personnel can and does lead AES to improve services." He continued, "This is a team effort, where research scientists, meteorologists and computer scientists matched their skills and talents in the pursuit of a common goal." Dubreuil is referring to the improvements to the medium range forecast model as a result of the application of state-of-the-art mathematical models and to the use of global, as opposed to hemispheric data.

With these improvements, six-day forecasts are of a similar quality to the previous five-day forecasts. Also, CCC and university researchers working on climate monitoring and climate change studies will now have a Canadian source for good quality global analyses.

In the mid 1980s, AES chose short-term forecasting as its highest priority. As a result, the state of the medium range spectral model was frozen for more than 3 years. In early 1990, RPN and CMC jointly decided to develop, test and introduce a global data assimilation system and a new global model using the most up-to-date numerical techniques.

Dubreuil congratulated and offered sincere appreciation for this very fine piece of work to all those of RPN and CMC who contributed.

Cycling to work this summer?

by John Jones (AAGR)

Cycling is an enjoyable way to get to work, but can be a stressful and dangerous proposition if correct safety measures are not taken seriously. In Metropolitan Toronto for example, vehicular traffic has increased 1.5% annually over the past five years, and future estimates show no decline. Like the motorist, the cyclist falls under the jurisdiction of the Highway Traffic Act and must obey all rules of the road or be fined accordingly. If you're enthusiastic and ready to ride, here are a few suggestions:

1. Ensure your bike is in good working condition and sized properly;
2. Wear the appropriate bicycle clothing from head to toe: use an ANSI approved cycling helmet and wear cycling gloves in case of a fall. Invest in a pair of cycling shorts (racing or touring) with a chamois lining to prevent chaffing. Loose clothing will inevitably get caught in the drive train of your bicycle and may cause an accident;
3. Before you begin, map out a route using side streets and bicycle paths where available. Ride at a comfortable pace and obey all traffic rules. There is no substitute for common sense.

AES Text Editor Diane De Beaumont cycles to the Downsview office in all seasons

4. Make yourself visible to motorists and do not dodge in and out of parked cars. Always ride with the flow of traffic and stay off the sidewalks;
5. Use panniers, carriers and baskets to transport your goods. There is a definite sense of freedom when you are not wearing a cumbersome knapsack while riding your bike.

Finally, remember these factors when you next entertain the thought of riding your bicycle to work. As employees of Environment Canada, we have a unique opportunity to practice what we preach. Car and parking costs escalate each year, public transit is not always dependable and the move to a cleaner, greener environment makes cycling the socially correct choice. Join the thousands of cyclists that ride to work and have fun.

Note, in Canada: Improper bicycle lighting ($13.75), no horn, bell or ineffective brakes ($78.75), failure to obey traffic signs, failure to signal turns and lane changes ($78.75), careless driving ($253.75)

He came, he saw, he asked about WO4s. His mission: to probe your thoughts

As plans for the implementation of WSOs continue, what is the future of the WO4? Donald Watt, an EG from Whitehorse, set out to examine this question. Over a five-week period Watt visited all AES regions, talked to over 50 technicians and more than 20 forecasters and regional management staff. This is what he found.

"There were some well informed people who are making strategic decisions about their careers," began Watt. "But I also talked with many EGs who feel frustrated trying to find out where they are heading and what the evolving Service has in store for them."

The modernization process is being approached differently across Canada. In Kelowna, the EGs he talked to were enthusiastic about the possibilities the prototype WSO will offer. A need was expressed for good communications between the WSO and WO4s. Pacific Region is working on a project which will allow WO4s to interact directly with WSO Workstations.

On the other coast, Atlantic Region is promoting advanced training for EGs. They expect the WO4s to assume a new look with a smaller number of staff. One of the EGs interviewed had already been cross-trained, had enjoyed the test-bed experience and found the extra training to have been beneficial. Now that he is back in the old-style WO4, he feels frustrated using someone else's forecast product.

Employee comments varied greatly across the country. As the WSO concept is still evolving, there will be many career possibilities. Watt visited the test-site of the District Officer concept in south-western Saskatchewan. He found it to be an innovative approach that could lead to a challenging new career option for experienced EGs.

Watt's appraisal was that two-way communication between management and staff is a must to help EGs deal with the misunderstandings that exist today. He also recommended that "EGs be patient in their search for answers and recognize that the modernization process is in flux and evolving slowly."

Satellite imagery interpretation in Pacific Region

The rapid spread and acceptance of satellite information within Pacific Region WO4s has resulted in need for training in satellite imagery interpretation. A program is ongoing at the Pacific Weather Centre to train all regional Weather Service Specialists. The following were participants in a recent interpretation training course: Laurie Neil (instructor), PWC, Uwe Becker, LMWO, Philippe Garcia, Venezuela, Mike Newman, Victoria, Bruce Heslip, Fort Nelson, Bob Duffy, Kamloops, Jim Richards, Castlegar, Brian Robilliard, LMWO, George Reynolds, Port Hardy, Jamie MacDuff, LMWO, Bud Foster, Victoria, Dave Lahn, Kelowna, Randy McCumsey, Fort St. John, John Stewart, Prince George, Daryl Brown, LMWO, Ross Klock, Penticton, Larry Funk (instructor) Missing from photo, John How, Terrace

AES studies Kuwait oil fires

Presently, more than 500 oil wells are reported to be on fire in Kuwait, burning an estimated one to five million barrels per day. AES scientists are studying the possible effects using climate models and are sharing the results with the international community in order to help prepare for the possible consequences. A report with recommendations is expected shortly.

The Kuwaiti fires are not expected to directly affect Canadian air quality or significantly alter the rate of increase of global atmospheric CO2 concentrations. If the fires continue to burn however, the CO2 could amount to almost 25% of the CO2 released each year by motor vehicles.

Large volumes of dark, sooty smoke are being released by the fires and black rain has been reported in southern Turkey and dirty snow in the Himilayan regions of India. If seasonal winds become stronger and more zonal, smoke could extend eastward over Asia, but is not expected to have a noticable effect on North American air quality or climate.

Translator by day sculptor by night

As a young boy, AES Translator Daniel Pokorn, helped his stone mason father shape granite for country houses near his home in Saint-Etienne, France. Pokorn continues to work with granite, as well as marble, alabaster, jade and lapis lazuli as he evolves as one of Canada's notable sculptors.

The Toronto Star wrote "Many people can learn the technical skill of carving stone, but it's obvious Pokorn has the necessary ingredient called creativity." Pokorn attempts to create the "new" with a medium as old as Earth itself. He does this by using a wide range of stones and by adding metals to introduce self-supporting lines and surfaces. He also leaves some areas untouched, thereby inviting the viewer to rediscover the natural beauty of a material.

Since 1979 Pokorn has had 10 solo showings and over 30 group exhibits. His work is represented in private, public and corporate collections in Canada and the United States including the Sculptor's Society of Canada Permanent Collection which locates at galleries across Canada and the U.S. The former President of the Sculptor's Society of Canada is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a frequent guest-lecturer and a contributor to the Canadian Sculpture magazine "Espace."

In his early years Pokorn would make drawings and plasticine models before he developed his actual sculpture. Now he is becoming more intuitive. Sometimes the idea comes first, or the characteristics of the material bring about an idea.

Pokorn sees translation as the antithesis of sculpture. "Translation is done within a set of constraints or rules. It's like a chess game where every noun, verb, king or pawn has its job." One must struggle to find the best option within the boundaries. While in sculpture he continued, "one attempts to destroy the rules, to come up with something new in order to make a contribution to the arts."

Pokorn will be one of the six Canadian artists participating in "Le Symposium International de Sculpture Matière à Musée" June 3 to July 31 in Montreal.

Looking for hot, dry weather

Most of us enjoy warm, sunny weather, but this summer a team of AES scientists will be hoping for hot and dry as they launch an in-depth field project to study evaporation. Lead by the Hydrometeorological Processes Division (HPD) of the CCC, it is anticipated the project will provide direct input to both numerical weather prediction and climate change models through improved understanding of evaporative processes.

The RES (Regional Evaporation Study) is one of several collaborative projects aimed at improving understanding of evaporation at all levels. From mid-June through July, HPD in cooperation with IWD, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Ducks Unlimited, various power companies and others, will focus on daily changes in the atmospheric moisture budget and the role of local evaporation as it relates to precipitation in the Prairies. Data will be collected in a 100 sq. km area near Saskatoon, on hot, dry, generally cloud-free days when evaporation is maximized.

HPD is housed in the National Hydrology Research Centre in Saskatoon. A group of 16, including five students work to encourage collaborative research among hydrologists and meteorologists. The group studies hydrometeorological processes, evaporation and precipitation.

Simplifying classification

In the White Paper on Public Service 2000, the government outlined its proposal to simplify the job classification system. One of the key features is a significant reduction in the number of occupational groups.

Over the next three years a single job evaluation plan and a classification standard will be developed for an administration group which will comprise most of the groups from the existing Administrative Support and Administrative and Foreign Service Categories. Managers, employees and departments are participating in the process and the Public Service unions have been consulted and invited to participate.

The simplified classification system will respect the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. It will also recognize the diversity of jobs and establish their relative worth within the Public Service. It is hoped this simplification will enhance career development and provide job enrichment.

On the move...

Assignment

Bachand, D. from MT QAEM to Supt. DOMAF, QAEM
Bouchard, D. from SCY QAEM to QAEDS
Casgrain, S. from EG Chibougamau to Comm. QAEM
Cotnoir, A. from MT QAES to QAEM
Doucette, L. from Qual. Ass. Sec. Head to Chief, DASB
Edisbury, D. from OCE QAEM to SCY, QAEM
Grant, L. from Admin. clerk to Off. Man. DASB
Grimes, D. from APEC to Chief, CCPA
Henry, D. from Qual. Ass. Off. to Sec. Head DASB
Hills, E. from Sec. APPA to Sec. APDG
Hunter, C. Sec. to APDG to Sec. ADMA
Ilzins, G. to EG DASB
Lafontaine, J.Y. from EG St. Laurent to Supt., Upper Air, QAEO
Lamontagne, S. from O.L. Clerk to Sec. AHRD
Maxwell, B. from Supt. Arctic Clim. to Dir. Clim. Adapt. CCC
McKay, D. from Dir. ARD to Dir. Clim. Info.CCC
Mehta, N. from OCE WSPB to SCY DASB
Morissette, J. from MT QAES to QAEM
Onofrio, R. from Branch Admin. Off. to Dir. Admin. Off. CCC
Pubrat, V. from Qual. Ass. Off. to Sec. Head DASB
Rahill, A. from MT QAES to QAEM
Sévigny, A. from Supt. DOMAF QAEM to A/Chief, CMQ
Szarko, L. from EG WSD to DASB
Traves-Metcalf, L. from Off. Man. WSPB to Admin. Off. DASB
Vanier, J. from Chief CMQ QAEM to QAED

Departure

Carlson, T. from Western to DPW Edmonton
Carter, J.J. from Admin. Off. APEC to York University
Galazka, E. from Sec. ADMA to FI DND
Gervais, S. from Comm. QAEM
Haché, B. from EG Chibougamau
Rodrigues, P. from Sec. AHRD

Leave without pay

Lebel, H., from EG Maniwaki

Maternity Leave

Abdel-Malak, V. from Sec. QAEDS

New

Giguere, A. to MT PWC
Goosen, J. to MT PWC
Smith, T. to MT PWC
Stone, J. from External Affairs to Dir,. CCRD
Walters, G. to MT PWC
Webster, R.A. to Prog. Off. EPF Edmonton
Williams, D. to Admin. Off. DASB

Passings

Adamson, J. OIC Windsor

Promotion

Beal, J. from EG Fort Nelson to Port Hardy
Bertrand, D. from MT ACTP/Q to QAEM
Brien, G. from MT ACTP/Q to QAEM
Desgagné, M. from MT ACTP/Q to QAEM
Langevin, D. from OIC - Upper Air Inukjuak to EG Val d'Or
Lessard, P. from EG to OIC, Sept-Iles
Mainville, S. from MT ACTP/Q to QAEM
Noah, V. from EG Winnipeg to Baker Lake
Rioux, R., from OIC Dorval to QAEO
Ristic, D. from MT OWC to DASB
Snow, D. from Pers. Ass. AHRD to Admin. Off. ACPD
Yelland, G. to Clerk, SSD Winnipeg

Retirement

Skalski, J.J. from EG DASB

Transfer

Bobby, J. from Gimli, to EG SSD Winnipeg
Bourque, A. from MT QAEM to Trenton
Gagnon, F. from EG Mirabel to Baie Comeau
Jutras, C. from MT QAEM to Gander
Landry, Y. from OIC Iqaluit to EG, Jonquière
Lavigne, J. from OIC Sept-Iles to Jonquière
Monpetit, J. from MT QAEM to Trenton
Nichols, T. MT Toronto to Edmonton
Phillips, D. from Supt. Dev. Clim. to Senior Clim.
Pratte, M. from EG Val d'Or to Baie Comeau
Webber, M. from Downsview to Western Reg.

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