

zephyr

ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE NEWSLETTER

October - November 1992

Percy Saltzman - Then and Now

For fans of early Canadian TV, Percy Saltzman's name is a household word. In 22 years of weather broadcasts on the Global and CBC networks, his vigorous blackboard scribbling and animated presentations earned him a legion of fans and a place in Canadian television history.

A weather career was not a logical progression for a man who studied premed and worked as a typesetter. Fortunately, a friend convinced Percy "The Weather Service" was ideal for him. Once persuaded, he studied by day and worked at night to make a better life for his family. During his Service career in the forties, Percy did the occasional radio science program. So when he "heard there was going to be television" in the early fifties, he decided to pursue opportunities in the new medium.

Proposals to televise weather broadcasts met resistance because early program planners didn't think people would be interested. But Percy's luck prevailed. On September 8, 1952, he became the first person ever seen on CBC English Canadian television. Concerned that weather alone couldn't hold viewers' attention, the network decided he needed a gimmick. Percy started off the evening's programming at 6:45 p.m. with "Let's See", a 15-minute program co-starring his puppet "friends" Uncle Chichimus, Hollyhock and Pompey. (In

those days, telecasts ended at 11 p.m.) The four of them would do a little skit, preview the evening's line-up, then Percy finished with a weather forecast. Months later, once the network gained confidence in him, Percy was allowed to work as part of a news/interview show...minus furry "friends".

Early TV was full of glitches. To boost potential "sex appeal", the network bought him a toupee to cover his balding head. Viewers loathed it so Percy happily reverted to his natural look. Problems with glare from his spectacles were solved using frames with no glass in them. Letting the home audience in on the joke, he once scratched an itchy eye right through those phoney "glasses".

Saltzman says TV weather has changed dramatically since his day. Data came by teletype; an early form of FAX machine sent the weather map. Percy never used cue cards or teleprompters. Making his own analysis from Weather Service data, he spent hours preparing for each broadcast. He memorized data, carefully chalked in the weather map by hand and delivered his forecast under strict time limits.



Percy Saltzman in full flight.

Today, Percy Saltzman lives in Toronto with Audrey, his second wife. (Audrey says she knew her husband long before he met her - as a nightly TV visitor in her home for many years). Still recognized on the street by fans, Percy was the only North American interviewed recently for "High Pressure Heroes", a British TV program on TV weather's early days. Rumour has it there's a book in the works. We eagerly await the next chapter. Thanks for sharing your story with us, Percy!



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Be a Greenhouse Gas Miser!

We all know that Canadians should do more to protect the environment. But how active are AES employees, from the rawest recruit to the most senior manager, in putting their own house in order - at the office, at home and elsewhere?

This simple question launched the AES Greenhouse Gas Miser Project in June 1992. Like many great ideas, it was hatched over a coffee cup and nurtured by a keen committee of volunteers. "Doing something for the environment" meant piloting a project on personal greenhouse gas use reduction at CCC Downsview. Greenhouse gas emissions are targeted because AES has an obvious, particular interest in them. And reducing emissions, at home and at work, is comparatively easy.

With assistance from the local Green committee, the Greenhouse Gas Miser Project shows how we add to the problem and how we can diminish it. The committee advises starting with simple actions. Radical changes don't last; gradual ones do. Participation is strictly voluntary and focuses on willingness to act, rather than adoption of particular reduction targets. Still, the Project has ambitious goals - 75% CCC participation by June 1993 and a 20% reduction of CCC employees' greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2000.

Most at CCC Downsview seem to embrace the project enthusiastically. Suggestions to make it more successful, fun and exciting are pouring in already. In the months ahead, participants will be encouraged to complete personal

emission inventories. They plan to become even more active in reducing transportation and domestic greenhouse gas emissions, then reporting on their own actions and updating personal inventories accordingly.

If the Project succeeds, look for expansion to all employees during 1993. Already, some in Ottawa want to take part. If others outside CCC want to join in or contribute great ideas, the Greenhouse Gas Miser Committee would like to hear from you. To share or obtain more information, call Henry Hengeveld at (416) 739-4323 or Pam Kertland at (416) 739-4432.

So pass the word and plan to become a greenhouse gas miser!

Gas miser home tips

It's autumn...and a person's fancy turns to home renovation. Interestingly, the domestic front is the best place to start your war against greenhouse gases. Here are tips on saving the environment without leaving the house, courtesy of the Gas Miser Project at CCC Downsview:

Using a power-saving fridge (using 650 kilowatt-hours of electricity/year) can decrease your CO₂ emissions by 125 kg/year. Look for the EnerGuide symbol (below) and shop around for the most energy-efficient model.



Energy consumption / Consommation énergétique

Weatherstripping and caulking can reduce your heating fuel use by 10%.

Putting an insulating blanket on your hot water tank can save 67 kg/year in CO₂ emissions.

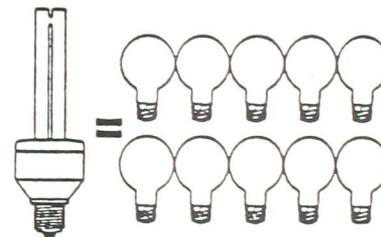
A standard showerhead (14.3 L/min) replaced by an energy-efficient showerhead (flow rate less than 11 L/min) reduces CO₂ emissions by 180 kg/year.

Landscape and beautify your yard with trees. An average tree absorbs 4 kg/year of atmospheric CO₂.



Composting food scraps and yard debris can reduce your garbage output by a third and help reduce methane emissions from landfills.

Replacing 100-W incandescent bulbs used 4 h/day with 26-W fluorescent bulbs saves \$8.64 and 22 kg of CO₂/year. Note: **One** compact fluorescent bulb lasts as long as **10** incandescents!



More gas-saving tips next issue!

Code of Conduct

No, these are not dress or comportment regulations. Nor is it a guide on how we can protect our environment!

Environment Canada's new Code of Conduct is, rather, a set of guiding principles and policies designed to guide the way we conduct ourselves in our work as public servants. From time to time, some of us forget that we are

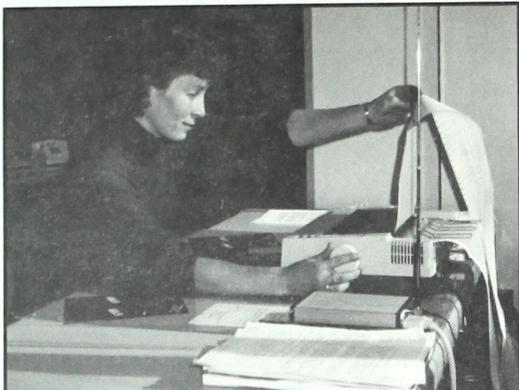
paid with tax dollars. (Something to think about when complaining about tax coming off the old paycheque!) We also forget that we work in jobs whose bottom line is to serve Canadians to the best of our abilities.

While there may be nothing new or startling in this document, it's a crucial guide for times when boundaries between right and wrong are not as clear as they could be. It's also helpful

to remind ourselves of the "do's and don'ts" of being a public servant. The existence of a code reassures the general public that we adhere to values and principles ensuring integrity in the government workplace.

Look for copies around your office soon. For more information on the Code of Conduct, ask your supervisor or call AES Transition Team member Mary Regan at (819) 953-3922.

Weathercopy on line



EG Liette Cormier checks Weathercopy data at Ottawa WO4.

On August 10, Minister Jean Charest inaugurated Environment Canada's new Weathercopy print service in Sherbrooke, Québec. This innovation, resulting from Green Plan commitments to improve environmental emergency warnings, combines with existing Weatheradio technology to bring weather warnings and information quickly to Canadians.

The only other service of its type in the world is in Australia. Weathercopy is now available in Sherbrooke, Ottawa, and Toronto. Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, Windsor, Montréal, Trois-Rivières, Québec, and Halifax are scheduled for upcoming openings.

Weathercopy uses Weatheradio's radio frequencies to print out or store messages on computer, using its own special receiver. Computer software, developed by Quebec Region, interprets Weatheradio broadcasts to create a printed message. The user can control the volume, select frequencies and choose bulletins to be received. The messages, created by Weather Office personnel, can be tailored to meet specific needs.

For clients who depended on facsimiled messages, Weathercopy is faster. For electrical utilities, snow removal contractors and other customers, Weathercopy eliminates manual transcriptions of Weatheradio broadcasts onto paper. Constant monitoring of airwaves is unnecessary because each

update creates an automatic print-out. When Environment Canada issues a weather warning, an alarm sounds on the Weathercopy receiver. The receiver also allows clients to listen to Weatheradio while hooked up to the printer.

Weathercopy technology, produced in partnership with Dataradio Incorporated of Montréal, is faster and more advanced than the Aussies.

Environment Canada's meteorological skill combines with Dataradio's technological expertise to bring Weathercopy to Canadians...for their weather eye.

What's new under the sun? by Claudia Del Col

To say this past summer was far from ideal for most of us is an understatement. In fact, it gave the phrase "catching a few rays" a whole new meaning! But the summer is notable for another reason. The recent introduction of the UV Index made Canadians dedicated sun-watchers. And we weren't the only ones. To elaborate, here are some UV Index highlights that have come to light since the service began this May.

The UV index launch sparked cross-country interest. The Index (complete with eye-catching graphics) started springing up on front pages of many newspapers. Already, it has become a standard topic on radio and television broadcasts. Conscientious campers at several national and provincial parks (including Ontario's Rondeau, the Pinery and Presqu'île) found that daily UV readings were posted prominently on park bulletin boards. And in Kingston, Ontario, no park, pool or playground was without a weekly reading, thanks to AES and the local Departments of Parks and Recreation. The Ontario Science Centre heartily attests to public enthusiasm for the Index, too.

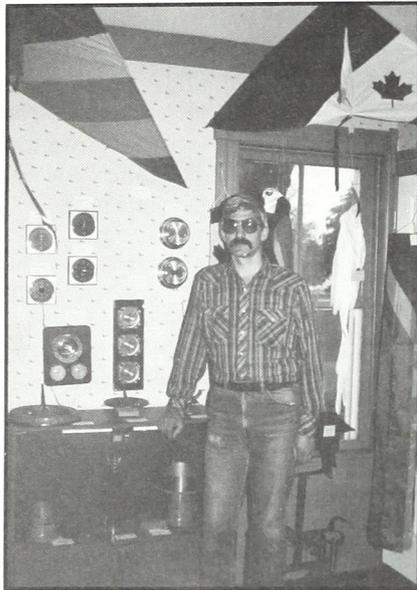
To date, nearly 1,700 visitors have visited the Centre's UV education program and display, with even more expected.

On a lighter note, the Index has become a part of our Canadian culture and humour. Take the case of a recent newspaper advertisement for a CBC Radio morning show host in Toronto. This ad stated that "special consideration will be given to anyone who can explain the UV Index." Obviously, in a program like this, there's always room for clarification. That's what AES representatives did during an annual lecture at the Graduate School of Journalism at London's University of Western Ontario. Entitled "Environment Issues for Journalists", experts from AES were on hand to explain UV and the Index. Most journalists attending greatly appreciated the chance to better understand the issue and write about it clearly. The result? Happy writers...and readers. On the international front, the Canadian High Commission in London has asked that AES provide weekly UV reports for selected Canadian cities. Add this to the long list of international requests for information that have been received - and met - so far: from the WMO, Australia, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, the United States and Argentina. And the list goes on!

Where do we go from here? On September 22 to 24, that question was the focus of a "Workshop on the UV Index: Three Months Later." Participants included stakeholders and representatives from DOE, HWC, the media, providers of skin-care products and academia. All of them worked together to assess the program and plan refinements to UV products. As always, we'll keep you posted. In the meantime, all at AES can be proud of this well-received program.



"Weather-Sense"



*Owner Doug McLellan
with weather wares.*

Victoria, Prince Edward Island (population 200), could be the stressed-out city dweller's version of heaven. This quiet, peaceful fishing village has all the amenities of a larger centre - art and craft galleries, a community theatre, a chocolate factory...and, of course, a weather store.

It's rare to find a store devoted to meteorology anywhere, especially in a tiny place like this. But tucked into a red Victoria house in the village is "Weather-Sense", a store devoted to weather-related articles. It boasts the latest in gadgets (hygrometers, barographs, rain gauges etc.), weather books, Weatheradios, cloud charts and all kinds of delights. Island-made windchimes tinkle in the sea breeze next to hand-forged Canadian weather vanes. Sundials, brightly-coloured lobster and penguin-shaped windsocks...you name it, it's all there. The store's really easy to spot. It's the one with the temperature, barometric pressure, wind direction, three-day forecast and tide times posted on a board in front! (The UV index may be next.)

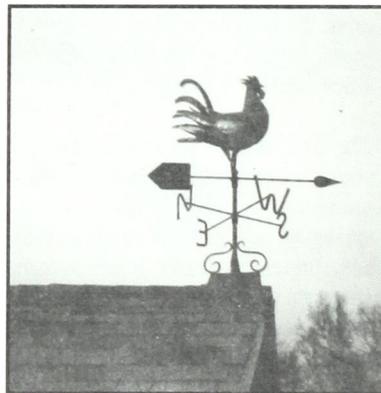
How this store came to be is quite a story. Owner Doug McLellan was an AES aerological technician in the early

1970's in Gander and on Sable Island. A career as a TimeAir cargo instructor kept him in Alberta for years but he remained an Islander at heart. When offered the chance to live in Victoria again, he returned home to open "Weather-Sense", a storefront and mail-order operation. It's been going strong since last summer.

The enterprise is the culmination of a lifelong dream. Since childhood, Doug has been captivated by meteorology. He spent his youth trying, with difficulty, to obtain proper weather instruments: "Trying to find them was next to impossible. I had to scrounge around, make them or order them from England." In the back of his mind, he knew that supplying hard-to-find meteorological goods would make a dandy business someday. From this idea came the shop and his mail-order catalogue, which he sends to customers across North America.

Doug welcomes inquiries and visits from AES staffers. Those not able to drop by can get a copy of Doug's mail-order catalogue by writing "Weather-Sense", P.O. Box 67, Victoria, P.E.I. COA 2G0. And if he doesn't have what you want, he'll try to get it for you.

Weather trivia



*The mysterious poultry-
weather connection.*

Peter Chen, CMC Dorval, had often noticed weather vanes atop older buildings in Quebec and wondered about their significance. To satisfy his curiosity, he tried to stump CCC's David Phillips with the following

question: "Why is the rooster most often associated with the weather vane?"

Here's David's reply: "Of all the weird and wonderful questions I've ever got, this might top the list. And to think it comes from one of my colleagues! The story goes that in the middle of the ninth century, the pope decreed that the figure of a cock was to be set up on every church steeple as the emblem of St. Peter. It refers to his denial of Christ three times before the cock crew twice. A person who is always changing his mind is, figuratively, a weathercock."

Just in case you wondered, too!



And on a completely unrelated topic...

It's sex discrimination at its deadliest. When the National Weather Service tallies up the deaths caused by lightning each year in the U.S., an overwhelming number of the victims are male. Of 74 lightning-related deaths in 1990, females numbered only seven. Little research has been done on the disparity but it's generally acknowledged that men to be outdoors more than women, at work and play, and are thus more vulnerable to a strike. Checking lightning statistics from 1968 to 1975, the Centers for Disease Control found that 85 percent of victims were male. The victims included farm labourers, construction workers, nurserymen and a land surveyor.

In Florida, the state that's led the union in lightning fatalities and injuries since 1959, many who are not killed while working are struck when golfing, fishing or swimming. Weather researcher Roger Tanner offers his own explanation for this gender gap: "There's probably that old macho ego. A male may not be cautious and take cover readily."

Something fishy



Mark Donoghue (left) and Gaetan Langlois paint the town yellow.

You'd think that W04 openings, early snowstorms and the local rampaging elk herd would give the Banff weather office staff enough excitement; you'd be wrong. In a commendable civic-minded move, Gaetan Langlois, Scott Morgan and Mark Donoghue recently volunteered their artistic abilities to the town of Banff for a unique environmental program.

Armed with brightly coloured paint and stencils, the trio travelled around town for several days, painting yellow fish symbols beside storm sewer drains in the mountainside town. This "yellow fish program" reminds Banffites that unwanted household cleaners, bleaches, paint and other caustic products should never be dumped down these curbside openings. From the drains, toxic products flow directly into local rivers, where they hurt fish and wildlife living in and near the water. Instead, residents of this spectacular Alberta town are urged to save their unique environment by safely disposing of toxic household chemicals at local hazardous waste depots and paint exchanges.

The streets of Banff were abuzz with speculation on the origin and meaning of the strange creatures painted on the streets. The favourite question of tourists wandering into the new downtown W04 location was, of course, "What are all these yellow fish for?" All of the excitement and inquiries added up to a smashingly successful program for the Town of Banff.

To the Banff W04 staff, best "fishes" for all the good work!

Self-identification and you

by Monica Chang



AES is committed to a positive organizational climate and to having a workforce representative of the public we serve. That is why we support the Employment Equity program designed to eliminate and prevent barriers in the workplace for women, aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities and visible minorities.

An Employment Equity census, to update previously-gathered information and to evaluate the program's progress, will be taken in October. All employees are encouraged to participate - whether or not they are target group members.

Your answers to the self-identification questionnaire (as it is called) will make a big difference. By filling it out, you will help support Employment Equity initiatives. You'll also give a more accurate picture of target group representation within AES. Precise statistics will allow us to identify problems such as clustering of group members in certain categories, levels and/or geographic locations and any other obstacles to hiring or advancement. Once barriers are identified, AES may want to improve the Employment Equity program by providing additional training, mentoring or other corrective measures.

All data collected is strictly confidential under the terms of the Privacy Act. It will only be accessible to Employment Equity coordinators and authorized Treasury Board officials.

If you have questions about your self-ID status or the questionnaire, please contact the Human Resources Officer in your Directorate or Region.

Support Employment Equity. Count yourself in!

AES and the Green Plan

Weathercopy Inaugurated

August 10, 1992 - An innovative service to provide Canadians with up-to-date printed information on environmental and weather hazards was unveiled in Sherbrooke, Québec by Minister Jean Charest.

New Banff W04

August 15, 1992 - DOE today commemorated the restoration of the 90-year-old Sulphur Mountain Weather Observatory and the opening of its modern day W04 at a new location in Banff National Park. New equipment has been installed which uses satellite reception and modem display technologies to access weather data and forecasts from across the country.

Canada's Temperature Rising

August 20, 1992 - Canada has warmed by 1.1°C over the past century. The increase in Canadian and world temperature averages is consistent with predictions of global warming as a result of human-caused increases in greenhouse gases.

Weathercopy

Sept. 14, 1992 - This service is now available in Ottawa. Weathercopy forecasts and warnings are adapted to the needs and interests of particular regions. In Ottawa, the emphasis is on weather information important for agriculture, pleasure-boating and tourism.

Sept. 16, 1992 - Toronto becomes part of the Ontario Weathercopy network which will include Windsor soon. The Weathercopy service is one component of Canada's Green Plan.

Low Summer Temperatures

Sept. 25, 1992 - Climate analysis of temperatures for this past summer shows that it was the first summer since 1986 where, at the national level, the average temperature was below by about 0.8°C. The summer of 1992 ranked as the 14th coolest in the past century.



Taking your leave

A couple of issues ago, *Zephyr* explored alternatives to the standard work day. Shorter hours, job sharing, part-time work - all reduce the stress of balancing work and home lives. Since then, there has been an interesting new development in the area.

Self-Funded Leave, a program approved by Treasury Board, offers employees an opportunity to achieve personal goals - say, start a business, study or travel- and still retain their jobs. This is how it works: your income is reduced proportionately as you put money aside for the leave. For instance, if you put 20% of your pay aside for 2.5 years, you could take six months self-funded leave. The money is held in trust by the designated custodians, CS Co-op or Desjardins Trust, for the term. Length of leave is for six consecutive months up to a maximum of a year. It's easy to arrange; it only takes about two months to set up. And although you're away from work, your pension is not reduced and you still qualify for salary increases. There is only one small catch - you do have to return to work for a period equal to the leave term. Not bad under the circumstances!

500 Federal Government employees have already signed up for this popular program. If you're a permanent AES employee, you are eligible to participate. For more information on Self-Funded Leave, please call the departmental coordinator, Sharon Lafferty, AHR, Downsview, at (416) 739-4740.

A call for help

You can now get help from your Employee Assistance Program any time of the day or night, 365 days a year. The new toll-free phone line is the latest in services from Employee Assistance Services at Health and Welfare Canada for employees going through tough times. The new service is available to employees, their family members and retirees (for a period of three years). The Program can help you with almost anything that affects your well-being or job performance - personal or work-related problems, stress, burnout and substance abuse. Counsellors will

answer questions about the Program, give referrals for personal counselling or tell you about support available in your community. It's not a crisis line but can provide essential help and information immediately.

The number for cross-Canada, round-the-clock assistance is 1-800-268-7708.

On the move...

Assignment

Abel, C. from EG Dorval to Inukjuak
Beauchamp, S. to Toronto
Bettink, P. from APEC to EMR
Canavan, T. from Educ. Leave Dalhousie to MT SSU St. John's
Cantwell, M. from MT R/O Vancouver to CMC
Chang, M. to Pers. Gen. AHRD
Desgagné, M. from MT CMQ St-Laurent to ARMN Dorval
Dussault, L. from QAEC CMQ St-Laurent to Insp. QAEOI St-Laurent
Jollet, C. from Educ. Leave to QAEC CMQ St-Laurent
Kindree, L. from Sr. Staff. Off. AHRD to HR Mgr. Vancouver
Lebel, H. from EG Inukjuak to Dorval
Ogletree, J. from Ops. Supervisor to BMetO CFFO CFB Greenwood
Turner, E. to SCY OAED
Wendell, C. from BMetO CFWO CFB Ottawa to DMWS/SSO Met. Stds. & Eval.
Yip, J. from DMWS/SSO Met. Stds. & Eval. to DMWOP/SSO Scient. Serv.

Departure

Dalley, N. from CS R/O Vancouver to Pres. IMPAQ Tech. Vancouver
Gaboury, G.T. from Norman Wells, NWT
Hawkins, T.A. from Fort Smith, NWT
Waugh, D. from MT SSD to MWC Bedford

Promotion

Daigle, R.J. from MT Greenwood to OIC YWC
Evans, C. from Wx. Tech. to AISB Tech. R/O Vancouver
Gosselin, D. from MT CMQ St-Laurent to AWTP/Q St-Laurent
Hart, N. from Met. O Class "C" Reserve to SWO CNRW North Bay
Lumsden, W.G. from OIC METOC

Centre Halifax to SSO METOC
MARCOM HQ Halifax
Pawley, D. from Wx. Tech. to Met. Insp. Vancouver
Pottier, J. from MT to AQ MT R/O Vancouver
Skelding, L. from AS to Br. Admin. R/O Vancouver
Williams, V. from Wx. Tech. to Met. Insp. Vancouver

Transfer

Brassard, J. from MT OWC to CMQ St-Laurent
Brown, C. from Tech. Cape St-James to Vancouver Pool
Derham-Reid, J. from EX-OIC Cape St-James to Vancouver Pool
Drouillard, R. from MT Vancouver R/O to Kelowna WSO
Jackson, G. from Tech. Cape St-James to Vancouver Pool
Johnson, K. from MT MWC Bedford to Corp. Adv. WSD Downsview
Pellerin, S. from MT R/O Vancouver to CMQ
Szeto, M. from NWC Gander to CFFO CFB Greenwood

Passings

McBain, D. from Upper Air Tech. Vernon

Leave of Absence

Landry, J.F. from Electrician Dorval to Educ. Leave
Metropolit, B. from PAEP Chief, HR Vancouver
Musson, Z. from Pers. Asst. AHRD to Educ. Leave
Rusu, M. from EG Dorval to Educ. Leave
Turner, G. from Pers. Gen. AHRD to Educ. Leave
Wohlebben, T. from MT MWC Bedford to Educ. Leave

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