WINTER 1998

Zephyr

ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

Environment Canada Environnement Canada

Risk Management: YEAR/L'AN 2000 AEP PEA Key to Success

The larger a project grows, the more complex it becomes. Truer words were never spoken as AEP works to ensure that we meet the millennium in full operation.

The major Year 2000 challenge is to protect against the unexpected so that there are few, if any, disruptions, shutdowns or stoppages.

Risk management involves calculating the probability that an event will occur, and if it does, what the impacts will be. Over the summer, the AEP Year 2000 Coordinating Team consulted with senior program managers to identify risks to the project (and program). Close to 40 risks were identified. These included technical risks like the failure of hardware or software systems, and non-technical risks such as the loss of key personnel or delays from conflicting demands on staff time. These risks have been incorporated in a Risk Register, and integrated into a separate set of risks at the Department level. The Risk Register is a living document to be updated continuously by the Coordination Team.

Like the Year 2000 project, risk management is fundamentally **a program** issue rather than an **information technology** issue. Several key program managers are monitoring and acting on the risks identified in the initial assessment.

As the project progresses, risk managers will assess and adjust the plans as needed to decrease the risks over the life of this project. Contingency planning goes hand-in-hand with risk management to ensure that a response is ready if something unforeseen arises.

Between now and December 31, 1998, there will be contingency plans developed for key failure scenarios, in keeping with Treasury Board instructions. A key part of this exercise will be to define 'triggers' for each risk that will direct the implementation of a contingency plan. A trigger may take several forms – it could be a physical event such as the failure of a hardware or software component, or a project-related event like the failure to complete a certain task by a certain time.

Information on Risk Management will be made available through the AEP Year 2000 web site at http://aep2000.ec.gc.ca/. You can also contact **Steve Douglas at (416) 739-4198 (e-mail: Stephen.Douglas@ec.gc.ca)**

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Letter from the Editor

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who took the time to email, phone or deliver in person their reactions to the fall issue of the renewed **Zephyr**.

This publication is for all of us, and we want to make it something that everyone wants to read. While we have carefully listened to and read your first round of comments, we ask that you take a few minutes to fill out the fax-back questionnaire in this issue. It will help make **Zephyr** even better.

Share your latest research findings, news of new projects, results of initiatives or just plain interesting information. We can help write the articles, too!

I can be reached at:
Jennifer.McKay@ec.gc.ca,
or by phone at (416) 739-4759.

Happy Holidays from all of us in AES Communications.

Jennifer McKay
AES Communications

Letters to the Editor

I received so many letters and e-mails, I could only print a few.

* * * * * * * * *

"Congratulations on the reincarnation of Zephyr with its superior layout. The resumption of its publication is most gratifying. I found that the journal that deals with the entire department does not carry the amount of detail about AES that I, as an AES alumnus, desire. Best wishes for the indefinite continuation of the new Zephyr."

Rube Horstein, AES Alumnus.

* * * * * * * * *

"The fall issue is great. Congratulations. Good articles (and I like the new colour)"

Mike Hewson,
Policy and International Affairs.

* * * * * * * * *

"The Fall 1998 Issue, recently received in the paper mail is very well done and informative. I like your "revitalization"; it is indeed impressive that any product from an organization which has been as decimated as the "AEP", can even be maintained let alone revitalized. Well done to the Communications team!! You mention in your opening column about putting Zephyr on-line. This is a subject which was being discussed in AES Hull well before I retired 2 1/2 years ago. I am very pleased that the on-line edition has finally come to fruition. Too bad that your website given is not available to anyone "outside the office"."

Bob Jones, AES Alumnus.

(Zephyr is now available on the AES Green Lane www1.tor.ec.gc.ca/zephyr)

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"I just received my copy of Zephyr and I wanted to congratulate you on how great it looks. Very streamlined and "fresh" looking."

Sara Malton, AES Commercial Services.

* * * * * * * * *

Thanks for the feedback!

THE ZEPHYR TEAM

Jennifer McKay, Editor and the AES Communications Team

Published by the Communications Directorate of AES, Environment Canada, **Zephyr** is a newsletter for and about the staff of the Atmospheric Environment Program.

Zephyr is your newsletter. We would like to hear from you. Your submissions, story ideas, graphics and pictures are most welcome. Submissions for the spring issue should be sent to us by February 15th, 1999.

Reach us at:
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Zephyr is now available electronically on the Intranet **wwwib.tor.ec.gc.ca/zephyr** and the Internet **www1.tor.ec.gc.ca/zephyr**

Happy Holidays from Gordon McBean

1998 has been a demanding year for all of us in the Atmospheric Environment Program and we can be very proud of our achievements. We worked hard to make Doppler radar operational in Bethune, Saskatchewan, continued field trials for WeatherAlert, implemented a global coverage configuration of the GEM numerical model - and tracked a giant runaway ozone balloon. All the while, we pursued our internationally recognized scientific research and continued to deliver increasingly timely and accurate weather forecasts to Canadians.

In addition to our already full workloads, we courageously tackled the Year 2000 preparations and UCS work description writing.

All of that in the midst of the ASD study to which you contributed immensely. Although there is still a lot of work to be done, we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. I am confident that the result will be a strengthened national atmospheric and environmental prediction program that will better serve Canadians in the new millennium.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support throughout 1998. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season.

GAMcBean

Sincerely,
Gordon McBean

Continued from page 1

Risk Management: Year 2000 Key to Success

KEY DATES IN YEAR 2000 PROJECT

December 31, 1998
Treasury Board guidelines indicate that testing of individual applications and systems should be complete by this time.

Contingency Plans to be filed with Treasury Board.

* * * * * * * * * *

June 30, 1999
Treasury Board target for completion of all testing on applications and systems as well as implementation of updated systems.

IT'S ONLY ONE DATE!

Testing systems for Year 2000 compliance is more involved than simply setting a clock to Dec. 31, 1999 and watching it roll over to 2000. The teams involved in testing will actually test for several date conditions – here are a few of the more notable dates.

September 9, 1999
On some systems, this may be expressed internally as "9999" and may be treated as a special condition with an outcome unrelated to a simple date value.

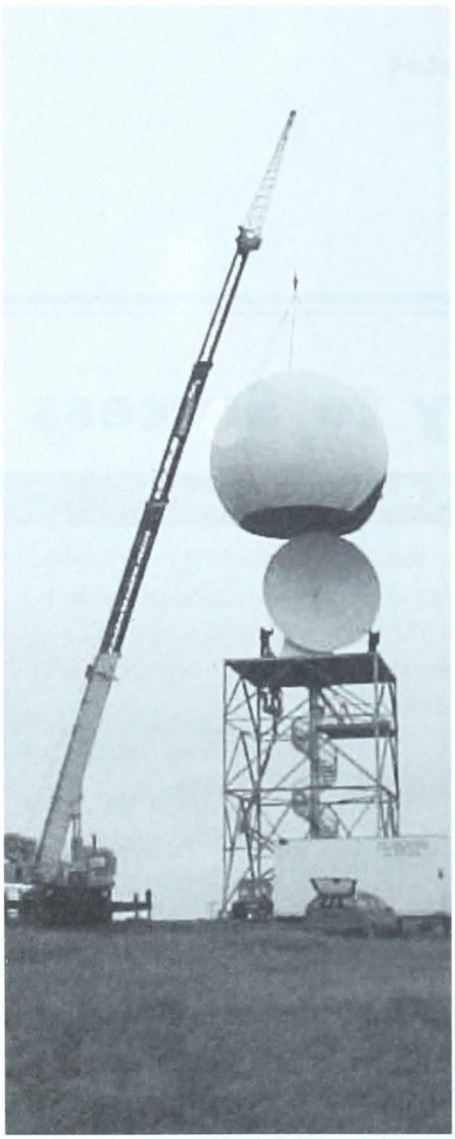
December 31, 1999 – January 1, 2000
The 'big day'!

February 29, 2000
Yes, 2000 is a leap year. The rule for whether a century is a leap year or not is often misinterpreted.

More information on Year 2000 Testing & Certification is available at the AEP Year 2000 web site at **http://aep2000.ec.gc.ca/y2aep/y2aep-testing.cfm.**

Doppler Radar Update: Improving Our Service to Canadians

Work on the National Radar Project is now well underway. The Atmospheric Environment Program's highly skilled engineers and technicians are working around the clock to get the first Doppler weather radar, in Bethune, Saskatchewan, ready for its opening this fall.



Bethune's New Doppler Radar Under Construction.

The team: Tony Hilton, Gary Tofflemire, Martin Stanley-Jones, Tony Benko, Mike Abyi and Brent Sargent.

Doppler Reaching Across Canada: Townhalls Engage Residents

Four down and many more to go…our colleagues in the regions have been organizing and hosting informational townhalls for resident of communities that will be home to the new Doppler radar towers. As part of the Department's communications strategy, each site where a new tower will be installed or moved to, will be targeted for direct, hands-on information sessions about the construction process, Doppler radar and severe weather prediction. "With over 20 new sites, we will be busy working closely with local residents and elected officials to inform Canadians of the new era in weather prediction and tracking" said Steve Lapczak, Director of the National Radar Project.

As we unroll our communications activities, we learn more and more about what residents need to know and what they are curious about. A common thread in each of the townhalls to date has been the public interest in severe weather. At the townhalls, information about the radar project presented and an opportunity was provided to discuss a broad range of weather service issues.

First up in townhall scheduling was Bethune (near Regina) and based on their success, it has since been used as the prototype for the three other townhalls. Regional staff in Woodlands (near Winnipeg), Radisson (near Saskatoon) and Franktown (near Ottawa) have all hosted townhalls.

Up, Up and Away ...and Back Again!

Dr. Tom McElroy prepares the instruments for voyage.

When AES ozone scientists displayed the payload from the runaway ozone research balloon MANTRA (Middle Atmosphere Nitrogen TRend Assessment) at a media briefing in Downsview, they had a media hit on their hands! Journalists from over 17 print, radio and television outlets attended the session, including the CBC, CTV, The Discovery Channel, and the Canadian bureau of the Los Angeles Times. AES scientists garnered positive media coverage for the department and used the opportunity to talk about their work to improve our understanding of the ozone layer.

In late August, Environment Canada and its partners launched the balloon from Vanscoy, Saskatchewan, to study the thinning of the earth's ozone layer. The giant balloon, carried a half-tonne package of instruments up through the ozone layer, reaching an altitude of about 38 km by sunrise. As it rose, the instrument package transmitted data back to the ground station at the Vanscoy base.

Media show a keen interest in the balloon's return.

By sunset, the balloon had successfully completed its mission. It was then scheduled to descend, with its payload of instruments floating down on an orange and white parachute and landing near the launch site. Unfortunately, the mechanism to bring the balloon down failed, and it took off on an unscheduled world tour.

Unbeknownst to most people and the media, AES had a pretty good idea of where the it was heading. Thanks to its global modeling capability, the Canadian Meteorological Centre tracked the balloon and provided real-time trajectory forecasts that proved to be very accurate.

After surviving cannon fire and traveling more than 9,000 km in 10 days, the balloon finally landed on Mariehamn Island in Finland. The Finnish Meteorological Institute recovered the payload for AES.

The "famous" ozone balloon will now drift into history and our memories – but the research scientists are beginning their two-year project to download and analyze the data it obtained and plan the next flight. Of course, we're hoping the next balloon will be better behaved. Then again, we enjoyed the positive media attention!

CMC's Latest Implementation

In the early morning hours of Wednesday October 14th, the Canadian Meteorological Centre (CMC) implemented into operational production the Global Environmental Multiscale (GEM) numerical model for the first time in its global-coverage configuration. The GEM model in this global version produces the medium and long range forecasts of the atmosphere and meteorological parameters. It completely replaces the global spectral model which had been in production in many improving versions for more than 20 years.

This latest implementation is significant in several ways. First, it represents the achieving of the goal to consolidate the operational numerical weather prediction system around a single model that can be executed in various configurations (i.e. regional, global). Second, it completes a series of improvements brought to the operational system over the last two years. Aside from the GEM model implementations, a much needed improvement to the analysis system known as the « 3D-VAR » (3-Dimensional VARiational technique) was introduced in June 1997. This has opened new doors for further improvements to operational analysis in the near future.

"These important successes are made possible by very close and continuing collaboration over several years among many dedicated staff in research, development, and operations, in meteorology and computing alike" said Peter Chen, Director of CMC Operations.

For details please see the internal web site:
http://iweb.cmc.ec.gc.ca/cmc/CMOI/quoideneuf/e_liste.html

SwissAir Flight 111 Recovery

The Weather Services Centre (WSC) in Halifax provided critical support to the teams recovering wreckage from SwissAir Flight 111 in the waters off Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia.

AEB meteorologists gave the Transportation Safety Board an in-depth look at weather conditions on the night of September 2, when the plane crashed.

"We recreated special detailed satellite and radar images and investigated the possible occurrence of lightning strikes," explained William Richards, a climate and consultation meteorologist at the Atlantic Climate Centre. These images helped the Board rule out weather as a factor in the crash.

In addition to providing weather advice to the Regional Environmental Emergencies Team, AEB employees Paul Galbraith and Martha McCulloch used an oil spill model to help track floating debris from the wreckage. Shore searchers used this information to help locate the initial debris and the debris created by subsequent operations.

As recovery operations continued, WSC Halifax developed daily customized weather and wave forecasts specially suited to the needs of the recovery teams.

These forecasts included graphical wave height forecasts for the crash site, specialized aviation forecasts for the Navy and RCMP, and a three- to four-day "plain language" forecast for the Transportation Safety Board. By the end of September, the office had produced 105 forecasts, and those numbers could swell to 167 by the end of the recovery project.

"Everyone at WSC Halifax is very proud to have supported this effort," said WSC Halifax Manager Gary Lines. "Although we are clearly at a distance from the crash site, we can still experience the sorrow and frustration the recovery teams have felt dealing with this tragedy."

INFORMATION NUGGETS

EMS at AES... Along with the rest of the department, AES is implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS) within its operations. Environment Canada's EMS is based on ISO 14,004 and builds on past work such as Federal Buildings Initiative and Environmental Action Plans. You may be asked for data or input for an Environmental Aspect. Remember, green government is good government! For information, AES staff may contact **Dorothy Culic at (416) 739-4651**.

They moved... AEB in Atlantic Region is now collocated with the rest of Environment Canada in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

"Frozen Chosen" Recognized

The winters are harsh, with mean daily minimum temperatures in the minus thirties and a daily high around seven or eight degrees in July. There are months of darkness, it's remote and there are not a lot of people around. But, rare white wolves might be spotted nearby, gyrfalcon and snow buntings are among the dozens of species of birds, and shaggy muskox can sometimes be seen dotting the hills.

These are the conditions for those who operate Environment Canada's High Arctic Weather Stations (HAWs) in Alert, Eureka and Resolute Bay, Northwest Territories, now celebrating their 50th anniversary of operation. Many dedicated AEP personnel have served in these isolated locations to provide the data necessary for understanding and predicting meteorological phenomena on a hemispheric scale.

"We are very proud of these northern pioneers and to their contribution to international science," said Gordon McBean, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Atmospheric Environment Service.

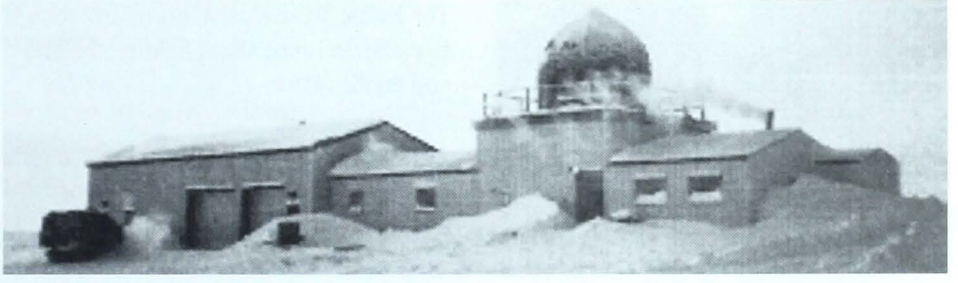
The High Arctic Weather Stations are all climate monitoring stations and provide vital information for research. They have also provided support for a number of other national and international scientific projects and special observations including ozone measurements, radioactive sampling; monitoring of air chemistry and Arctic haze experiments.

It was in April, 1947, that the initial landing occurred on the sea ice of Slidre Fiord as Canada and the United States joined together to open five Joint Arctic Weather Stations. The station personnel landed at 11 a.m., and by 7 in the evening had erected a building, started the meteorological program, established radio communications and put on a hot meal. Outside, the white wolves played with the packing paper. The rest of the stations came on line in the next three years.

"Environment Canada's presence has declined in Alert and Resolute," says PNR Head Aerological Programs, Brian Kahler. "In Alert our staff are outnumbered 25 to 1 by Department of National Defence personnel. However, Eureka is a beehive of activity with its world class ozone observatory and platform for a host of scientific activities ranging from study of white wolves to a nearby fossil forest."

A pleased Brian Kahler receives the HAWS 50th anniversary plaque from National Defense Minister Art Eggleton on behalf of Environment Minister Christine Stewart.

The sun sets at Alert on October 14th and rises again on March 3rd. It takes special people to do such work, and a monument sits at Alert to commemorate those who perished in a 1950 plane crash there. It reads: ***"The task in which they gave their lives continues"***.



Alert BAPMON Laboratory site - 7 km south of Alert station.

Environmental Prediction: Helping Canadians Prepare for the Worst

Hurricanes, floods, the ice storm and tornadoes are just a few examples of natural disasters that have struck Canada over the past few years. Natural disasters can cause extensive damage and even take lives. The human and financial costs, as experienced in disasters such as the Manitoba flood and the Ice Storm, can be devastating for communities as well as the nation.

Natural disasters are occurring more frequently, according to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, and this trend is due to factors such as population growth, urbanization, economic expansion and climate change.

Continued on page 8

Forest Fire Forecasters Honoured

AEB staff who provided vital on-site weather forecasts and monitoring support during the Salmon Arm fire in southern British Columbia this past summer were honored recently.

"AEB staff rise to the occasion in times of need" indicated Brian O'Donnell, Regional Director of the AEB, Pacific and Yukon. Recognized for their outstanding contributions were staff members Jack Bowling, Drew Pawley and Frank Mirecki. Also on-site but absent from the ceremony were Mark Torgerson, Bryan Phenix, Nick Draper, Bob McInnes, Jim Goosen, Mike Woodroff, Dave Yates and Alex Colbert.

Jack Bowling and Herb Spence of the BC Forest Service prepare the upper-air balloon.

On July 29, a lightning strike set off the 5,200 hectare inferno which destroyed or damaged 22 homes. The fire forced the evacuation of 8,000 area residents, the largest evacuation in BC history.

Left to right: Brian Donnelly, Frank Mirecki, Drew Pawley, Jack Bowling and Al Wallace.

During the fire event, AEB staff provided an exceptional level of support to the British Columbia Forest Service. As well as supplying briefings to aid the fire fighting efforts on very short notice, staff installed and operated an emergency surface weather station, taking hourly measurements of upper winds, and launching upper-air balloons twice daily. The Forest Service used this information to make decisions about fighting the fire and public safety.

AEB tech staff were on site for more than two weeks, from August 5 to 19, often working up to 18 hours per day.

"It was definitely a team effort," Jack Bowling said. "Without the support of everyone, we could not have done our work as effectively," said Drew Pawley. "It truly takes a variety of knowledge and people to provide emergency support."

AEB staff were part of a massive campaign that included 250 municipal firefighters, 100 RCMP officers, 100 military personnel, 100 search and rescue personnel and 32 paramedics and hundreds of local volunteers.

Continued from page 7

Environmental Prediction: Helping Canadians Prepare for the Worst

Improved weather prediction and scientific models developed to assess potential risk from natural disasters can provide important insight for land use planners, builders as well as municipal, provincial and federal governments so that losses can reduced through mitigation.

In an effort to develop a National Mitigation Policy, the AEB in the Atlantic region recently participated in a workshop hosted by Emergency Preparedness Canada and the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction. The branch took a lead role in the workshop, providing speakers on topics like Canadian hurricanes and storm surge zones. Representatives from various organizations and other provincial and federal government departments also took part in the workshop held at Bedford Institute of Oceanography.

Discussions focused on better planning at every level beginning with land use, to building codes, to incentives and disincentives. All participants agreed that there is a need to broaden the distribution of scientific information so that planners, builders and residents alike can make informed decisions that take into account the potential risks brought on by natural disasters.

Jim Abraham, the Atlantic region's manager of Atmospheric Science, will present findings from the workshop at a national conference in Toronto in December. Information from this and other similar sessions happening across the country will provide the necessary building blocks so that Canadian communities can integrate mitigation into their daily activities and reduce the risk to life, property and the environment.

Our Floating Ocean Weather Stations

Ocean Buoy Servicing team at work.

It's late on a warm June evening at the Coast Guard Base in Victoria, B.C. as members of the Environment Canada buoy servicing team go over their lists one last time. Spare transmitters – check, spare mooring components – check, batteries – check, computers – check, check, check. Finally an announcement echoes over the ship's PA system, "Attention, the ship will be sailing in 15 minutes, all crew on board".

This is it! Months of preparation for this years' Ocean Buoy servicing trip have come down to this moment. If anything has been forgotten, it's too late to worry about it now. The ship's mooring lines are released and with a shudder, the CCGS Narwhal pulls away from the dock and the adventure begins.

By 7 AM the next morning we are approaching the ODAS (Ocean Data Acquisitions System) buoy at La Perouse Bank, 25 nautical miles west of Barkley Sound on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. The old buoy is lifted aboard, the mooring is checked, the replacement buoy is activated, deployed, and the data is checked against human check observations taken aboard the ship. Once we are satisfied the buoy is functioning properly, we head to our next buoy station and soon settle into a routine that will consume our efforts for the next 3 weeks, in order to service the sixteen Canadian ODAS buoys in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean.

This process is repeated over thirty-five times on Great Slave Lake, Lake Winnipeg, the Great Lakes, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Western Atlantic Ocean as Meteorological Technicians, turned sailors, struggle with the elements to keep our floating weather stations operational.

Every hour the buoys sample the weather and wave conditions and transmit a message to the GEOS satellite. The raw buoy data are received at the NOAA earth station in Wallops Island Virginia and eventually ends up in "Poseidon", the buoy data computer at the Pacific Weather Centre in Vancouver. Poseidon processes the data, formats the synoptic weather messages, and makes the data available to weather forecasters and mariners, to name a few users, all over the world.

Hat's off to this small but highly dedicated team of technicians and contractors who maintain this sophisticated array of ODAS buoys in some of the harshest ocean environments on the globe.

A Guide to Marine Weather

"One of the problems that people who are not used to the Great Lakes have with them is that we call them lakes… if we thought of the Great Lakes as inland seas, we'd probably treat them with more respect." said Peter Trueman, journalist and former news reader at the beginning of the video Catch the Drift.

The 62-minute training video and its companion book Wind Waves and Weather: A Guide to Marine Weather, is the brain child of Tony Chir, formerly the Weather Services Manager with Ontario Region, now with AES. The two-year project – which, he jokes, changed the colour of his hair – is designed to show sailors and boaters, especially those who are new to the sport, why they must treat the Great Lakes with respect. Jack deCorby, who is now retired, and Ron Fordyce of Ontario Region's Port Meteorological Office helped Tony with the project.

The video and the book explain the effects that shifting winds, waves and weather patterns have on each other and ultimately on power or sail boats. They also spell out how to get marine weather forecasts and what to do in emergencies including picking up people who have fallen overboard and helping those who have hypothermia.

The video and book come either separately or together in a kit called, not surprisingly, The Great Lakes Marine Weather Kit for Safer Boating. Tony also produced two versions of the video, the 62-minute version for teaching boaters and sailors the "rules of the road" and a 30-minute version for showing after club dinners or luncheons. The Ontario Sailing Association and the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron are distributing the book and video free to all their members. The kit, the book and the videos are for sale separately at Environment Canada.

"The response has been extremely positive," said Tony. "Weather changes quickly and often without warning on the Great Lakes. Each year, anywhere from eight to twelve people die in Ontario waters while out for a day of fun and recreation."

Weather Station Returns Home

On August 26, 1998, a weather station was returned home to Rea Point, Melville Island, NWT. The station measures air pressure, temperature and wind, and transmits the weather data collected to the Arctic Weather Centre in Edmonton, Alberta. The data is used to fill in gaps in forecast production and climatology.

Students, Andrea Cox, Rosie Page, (co-pilot Jason), Paul Crowley and Dan Harvey, (pilot Richardson), helped re-install the Rea Point weather station.

The Rea Point station was originally established in the 1970s as a 24 hour per day Private Aviation Weather Reporting Station operated by Panarctic Oils Limited. Panarctic agreed to provide Environment Canada with weather observations to assist us in our overall public forecast in return for forecasts for their operations. However, the decline in oil exploration activity in the early 1990s lead to a reduction in the hours of observations from the station. In order to expand the observing schedule back to 24 hours per day, Environment Canada installed an auto weather station that reported through the Geostationary Operational Satellite station (GEOS).

By 1994, Panarctic Oils Limited decided to pull out of Rea Point. As EC's GEOS station was on their lease, we were advised to remove the station or lose it! Immediately, an application was submitted to DIAND for use of the land where the station was located. The application was completed and a reserve was established in June 1998.

The station reinstallation was coordinated through the Polar Shelf Continental Shelf Project out of Resolute Bay. Gerry McEachern of Polar Shelf was kind enough to send along four University of Guelph students to assist with the project. As a trade-off for their labour-intensive work, the Zoology students had an opportunity to collect soil samples on Melville Island. In addition, they were able to learn about the capabilities of this weather station and the transmission of the data collected.

Major breakthrough into the Québec television market

The Québec Region has always been an active presence in the radio and print media, but its efforts to break into the television market have so far been unsuccessful.

The recent arrival of the latest news network, Le Canal Nouvelles (LCN) has changed all that. Le Canal Nouvelles is owned by the Vidéotron Ltée Group and affiliated with the TVA network . It is, of course, Vidéotron's answer to RDI, the information channel of CBC's Francophone counterpart, Société Radio-Canada. Le Canal Nouvelles broadcasts throughout Québec, serving cable customers under the banner of the most up-to-the -minute news provider of all its specialty- channel rivals.

To support this claim, Le Canal Nouvelles includes weather in its regular programming. The Atmospheric Environment Service is supplying live weather information. LCN sees many benefits in this arrangement, including Environment Canada's reliability, scientific credibility and reputation, as well as the elimination of an intermediary between producer and broadcaster.

Weather forecasts appear as permanent icons on the screen, and each region is given 10 seconds of air time. Environment Canada's signature is featured 4 times per hour, 24 hours a day. The Environment Canada logo also appears at the bottom of the screen every 15 minutes. We also have a space for Ministry advertising or for weather warnings and alerts during serious weather disturbances.

This commercial agreement with Le Canal Nouvelles provides us with outstanding exposure and offers promising potential for future television-specific products.

AES Communications Adds Value

by Linda Larocque,
AES Communications Director

Hull team: Louis Michon, Linda Larocque, Tom Volk and Micheline Gauthier.

The main goal of the Communications Team is to add value to AES programs and services by helping AES experts explain their issues to Canadians and help them reach specific audiences. Whether it is advice on how to reach or respond to media, or assistance in organizing special events, AES Communications can help.

Value added also means seeking every opportunity to increase visibility for the AES both internally and externally. On one hand, we link the messages from the overall communications approach of Environment Canada, the department's overall priorities, the Minister's Results Agenda and the priorities of the Government of Canada to AES issues. On the other hand, we highlight AES science, our goals and messages within Environment Canada: in communications plans for Memoranda to Cabinet, the departmental communications framework and Minister's speeches. We also work to ensure an AES presence in the numerous communications vehicles such as S&E Bulletin, Let's Talk Green, Tipsheet or Planet Update.

In working closely with communications at ECS , EPS and Corporate, as well as with regional communications teams, we share approaches and materials to encourage greater consistency in messages.

Internal communications is also a priority and every effort is made to highlight the internationally recognized expertise of the people at AES. A key example is the revival of Zephyr, a very important tool for sharing information with all current and former AEP employees. In the coming months, the focus will be on clearly explaining the changes within our organization and the impacts on employees.

We have a solid team located in Downsview and in Hull. Like so many of you, we have found very ingenious ways of working together despite the different physical locations.

As part of our ongoing commitment to find new ways to add value to your work, we are open to suggestions. Do not hesitate to approach one of our team members to discuss your views, or just send a message!

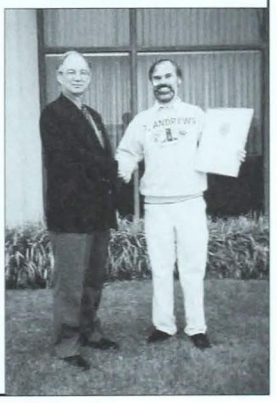
Merit Awards

In July, Alternative Study Delivery Study Team members received Environment Canada's Merit Award for their exceptional and distinguished contribution to the effectiveness and efficiency of the Public Service.

ASD Study Team
Back: John Falkingham, Basile van Havre, Richard Wagner, Phillip Jacobson, Tom Volk, Michel Jean
Front: Joanne Lancaster, David Grimes, Ian Glen and Gordon McBean. (Photo: Rhonda Arsenault)

Julie Jagoe and Barry Goodison receive their merit award.

Louise Kindree, presented with the Merit Award.



Tom Robinson, the union representative on the ASD study team is presented his Merit Award.

Rocking in the Holiday Spirit

René Servranckx, Jacques Halle, Gilles Richard, Yves Pelletier, Louis Lefaivre, Ross Brown, Judy St-James, Serge Desjardins, Alain St-Denis, André Plante, Claude Landry, Susan Bisanti and Gérard Croteau.
(Absent: Michel Baltazar, Maryse Beauchemin, Nils Ek, Richard Hogue, Mario Lepine, Simon Pellerin and Tom Robinson)

By day, they are mild mannered AES staff working diligently on computer models of the atmosphere, but by night, they become wild musicians! Not many people know about the hidden talents that reside at Canadian Meteorological Centre (CMC) in Dorval.

Every year, these musical talents are showcased at CMC's annual Christmas party. Since over 40 staff participate in the choir or rock band, Absolutely Kelvin.tar, it's obvious that CMC staff know how to have a good time. Choosing what to play and when to practice has been a challenge but it always comes together in time for their annual Christmas tradition.

AES SCIENTIST RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Ronald Stewart, with Climate Research Branch of AES, was recently selected as the first senior scientist for the World Climate Research Program's Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment, a program designed to improve understanding and prediction of regional climate and water resources. The program involves comprehensive regional studies of major river basins around the globe and complementary atmospheric, land-surface, and hydrological investigations. Dr. Stewart will provide overall scientific leadership and guidance to the program. This is significant international recognition for Dr. Stewart and for Canadian climate science.

Dr. Stewart was also selected as the recipient of a research excellence award from a leading German research institute. In his recent research, Dr. Stewart provided many new insights into issues including the physical processes and feedbacks affecting regional climate and the nature and large scale impacts of cloud systems.

On to Future Endeavours... recent AEP departures

Recently, two staff members left AES to join the Department of National Defence (DND). After 30 and 28 years with AES respectively, **Mike Hawkes**, Senior Planner, Meteorology and Oceanography, and **Ted Koolwine**, Director, Meteorology and Oceanography made the move. The change is a result of the new relationship between DND and EC for the provision of meteorological services. In the past, DND arranged for AES staff to serve in DND positions for the Canadian Forces Weather Service. Since April 1997, however, AES provides products and services to DND under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) and most personnel stay within AES as part of the Interagency Services Branch. Ted and Mike were deployed from AES to manage the SLA for DND. They continue to have close ties with their former colleagues in AES. Mike indicated that "Zephyr will be one means to maintain contact".

Reader Survey FAXBACK

We are constantly striving to make future issues better, but we need your feedback!
We want to ensure that Zephyr meets your needs and expectations.
Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and
fax it back to the attention of the **Zephyr editor (416) 739-4235.**

1. How would you rank Zephyr?
❑ like 1 2 3 4 5 ❑ dislike

2. What did you enjoy the most about Zephyr?
❑ staff information ❑ program information
❑ regional articles ❑ ADM's message
❑ our new layout
❑ photos
❑ other(s) _____

3. Do you use Zephyr as a means of maintaining contact with colleagues in the AEP?
❑ yes ❑ no

4. Did you know that Zephyr is available on the Intranet (wwwib.tor.ec.g.ca/zephyr)?
❑ yes ❑ no

5. If yes, is this your preferred way to receive Zephyr?
❑ yes, I do not wish to receive the print version
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8. What would you like to see more of in Zephyr?
❑ information on programs and services
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❑ other _____

9. Do you like the new format ?
❑ yes ❑ no

10. If yes, what do you like most ?
❑ the layout ❑ the colors ❑ others

11. Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name _____

Title _____

Organization (i.e. region or AES) _____

Address _____

Thank you for your comments!
Watch for the results of this survey in our Spring 1999 issue.