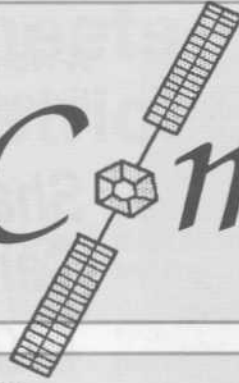


ATLANTIC

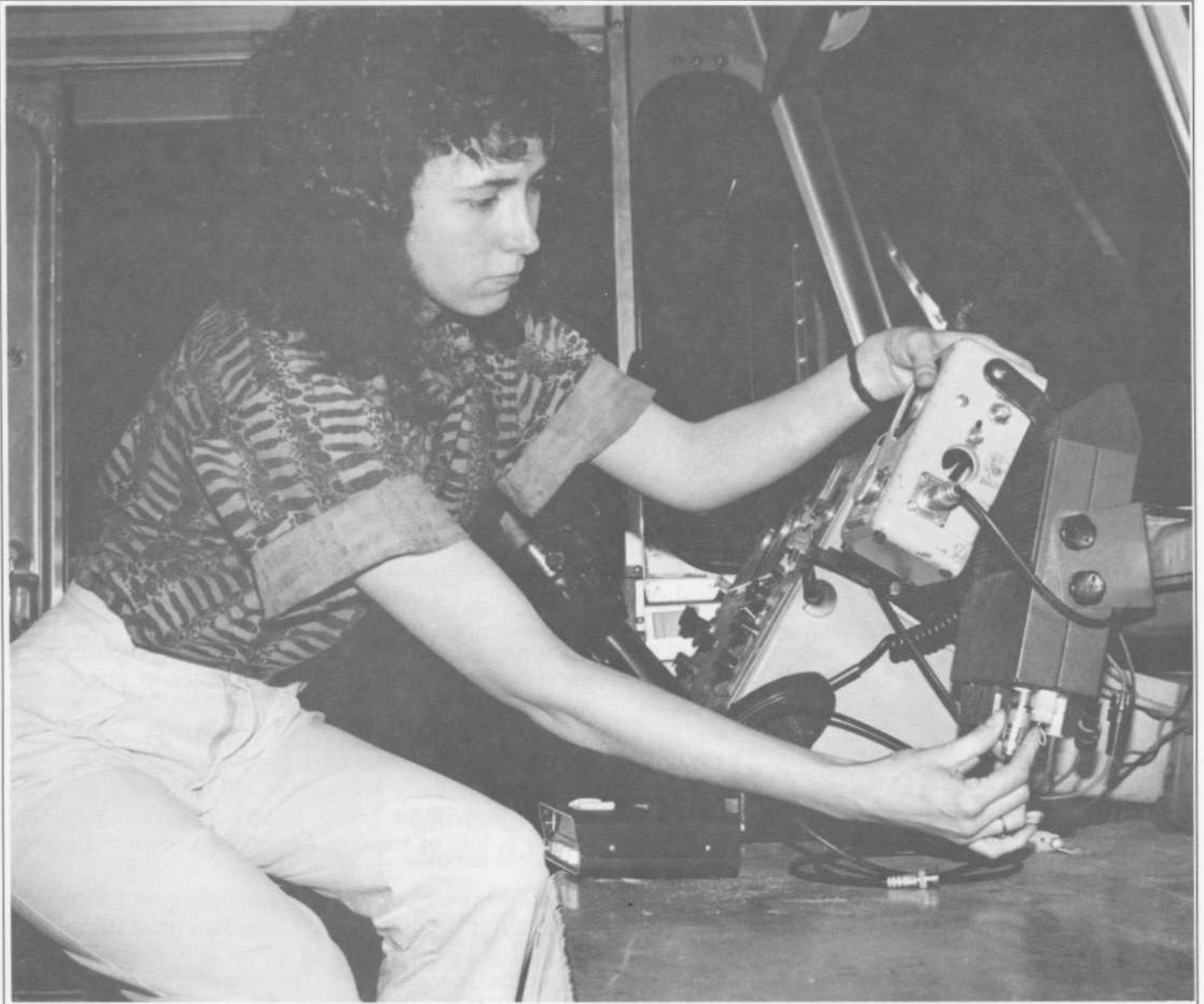
InterComm



Vol. 2

OCTOBER 1991

No. 3



Inspecting Radio Equipment

Michele Savoie, radio inspector with the Saint John District Office, is busy checking the mobile radio equipment installed in a public

service vehicle in Saint John, N.B. (Atlantic Region Photo Bank, Communications Canada)

22 years of service, innovation and creativity



Communications
Canada

Atlantic InterComm

is the internal newsletter for Communications Canada, Atlantic Region.

It is published three times a year and is produced thanks to the volunteer participation of our staff throughout the region. The production is coordinated by the Atlantic Region Internal Communications Committee (ARICC) under Public Affairs.

ARICC members for 1991:

Paul Soucy	Moncton
Josanne Léger	Moncton
Paul Trasher	Halifax
Wally Burke	Saint John
Ghislaine Didham	St. John's
Mary Clare Butler	Charlottetown
Serge Martin	Moncton

Address:

Department of
Communications
Atlantic Region
P.O. Box 5090
1222 Main Street
Moncton, New Brunswick
E1C 8R2

Deadlines for future issues:

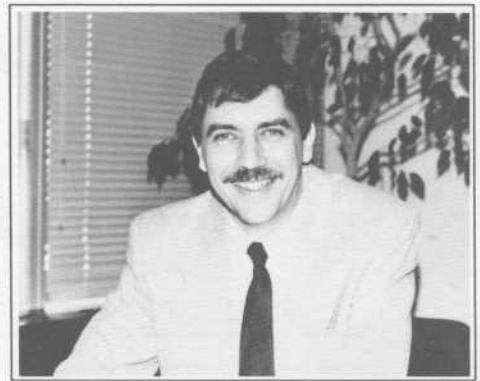
December 20, 1991, for
February edition.

April 24, 1992, for June
edition.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of individual employees and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Department of Communications.

A Word from the
Executive Director

Shaping Canada's Future Together



Pierre Boudreau, Executive Director, Atlantic Region

Almost 125 years after Confederation, the time has come to adapt our constitution to the needs of a Canada wanting to take on the challenges of the year 2000 while ensuring the utmost respect for diversity.

With the constitutional proposals presented on September 24, the federal government is inviting us to reflect on what shape this Canada, hopefully more united and prosperous than ever, will take.

As employees of the Government of Canada and the Department of Communications, we owe it to ourselves to be aware of the importance of these proposals. I invite you, if you have not already done so, to read the document entitled "Shaping Canada's Future Together", copies of which are available at the regional office, the district offices and the sub offices.

The following proposals are among those closely affecting our Department's activities:

on the cultural level, the Government of Canada is offering to negotiate certain cultural issues with the provinces that request it. Where appropriate, the resulting agreements could be entrenched in the constitution;

the Government of Canada intends to retain responsibility for existing Canadian cultural institutions such as the CBC, the national museums, the National Film Board, the Canada Council, the National Library, the National Archives, Telefilm Canada and the National Arts Centre;

in regard to broadcasting, the Government of Canada proposes to consult henceforth with the provinces on the issuance of any new licences.

For the time being, these are only proposals, but we should prepare ourselves. Also, in the course of daily service delivery, we are asked to encourage our clients, be they in the broadcasting, cultural or technical industries, to make their points of view and interests known during the present debate.

Over the next few months, the Special Joint Committee on a Renewed Canada will continue gathering the opinions of Canadians from all walks of life. This committee will table its report in early 1992. After having examined its conclusions, the Government of Canada will present a proposal for constitutional renewal to Parliament.

All of us must continue to contribute, in our own way, to shaping the country. This is essential if we wish to view the future of our society with optimism.

Pierre Boudreau

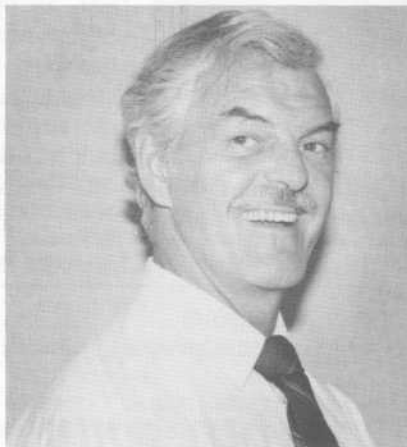
**New faces on the
Atlantic Regional
Internal Communication
Committee**



Josanne Leger, Moncton Regional Office.



Wally Burke, Saint John District Office.



Paul Trasher, Halifax District Office.

Minister meets Halifax District Staff

By Tamara Gates

On a recent visit to Halifax, Perrin Beatty took time out from his scheduled activities to meet with the staff of the Halifax District Office.

"Everyone thought that the minister was extremely personable," said District Director Ron Wilcox. "It's great to see Mr. Beatty making the effort to meet the individuals who work at every level of the department," he added.

Luvina Thomas, administrative services clerk in the district office, said they had joked about the coincidence that

while she had worked for the Department of National Defense, Mr. Beatty had been its Minister.

As the minister made his rounds, he spoke with all staff members who were present at the time.

Minister Beatty also treated a few members of the Halifax District and Moncton Regional Staff to a fine dinner at the Five Fishermen Restaurant, in appreciation of their participation in his visit. It was a chance to chat with the minister in the casual haligonian atmosphere.



Front row, from the left: Ron Wilcox, Halifax District Director, Nancy Fraser, Richard Arnold, Murdena Sampson, Terrance Landry, Luvina Thomas, Nicole Monette, Manuel de Escobar, Richard Lawlor, Pierre Boudreau, Atlantic Executive Director, Doug Maund, Minister's Chief of Staff, Paul Soucy. Back row: Minister Perrin Beatty, Paul Trasher, Henry Klain.

Minister aboard the Nova Sea

Minister Beatty joined Captain Jim Brewer for a simulated radio inspection on the long-liner vessel Nova Sea, while in Halifax.



Memories of Cabot Tower (1955 - 1960)

(Taken from V01 Radio Amateur News)

by Mac Chafe - VO1MC

As a young radio operator employed by the Department of Transport in 1955, I reported to the Canadian Marconi Coastal Station at Cabot Tower, Signal Hill, for on-the-job training. I was under the direction of Mr. Kelly, the station manager and an already famous radio operator.

This was my first visit to Cabot Tower, the site of radio station "VON", which had been operating since the early 1930's. Although a famous historic site, the tower possessed few of the creature comforts expected by workers today. There was no water nor sewage disposal - a chemical toilet served for emergencies! During power failures the tower resembled a

dungeon. Marconi station "VON" was a very busy place in those days. It provided 24-hours-a-day monitoring of the international distress frequencies 500 and 2182 kHz, offered radio direction finding (RDF) bearings to shipping on 410 kHz, and collected all the private traffic from Labrador.

A 100-w spark transmitter was used to provide df bearings on 410 kHz. Although I had studied spark transmitters at radio school, I had never actually seen nor heard one in operation. I eagerly awaited the first call for a bearing. When it came, it was something to behold! The spark itself, and the noise was something unforgettable.

For the first two weeks I was not permitted to do any sending, and had to

master the art of receiving accurately. I sat alongside the day operator and copied the incoming traffic. The traffic on 179 and 195 kHz was almost continuous, and often overlapped the hourly skeds. We had a break-in system, and a unique method of handling the message word-count, which was difficult to master at first. As messages contained a certain number of words which were chargeable, an accurate count was essential. Words were counted in groups of five; a 27-word message would have five groups of five (xxxxx), and one group of two (xx). Easy for short messages, but a chore for long ones.

Transmitting had its own share of

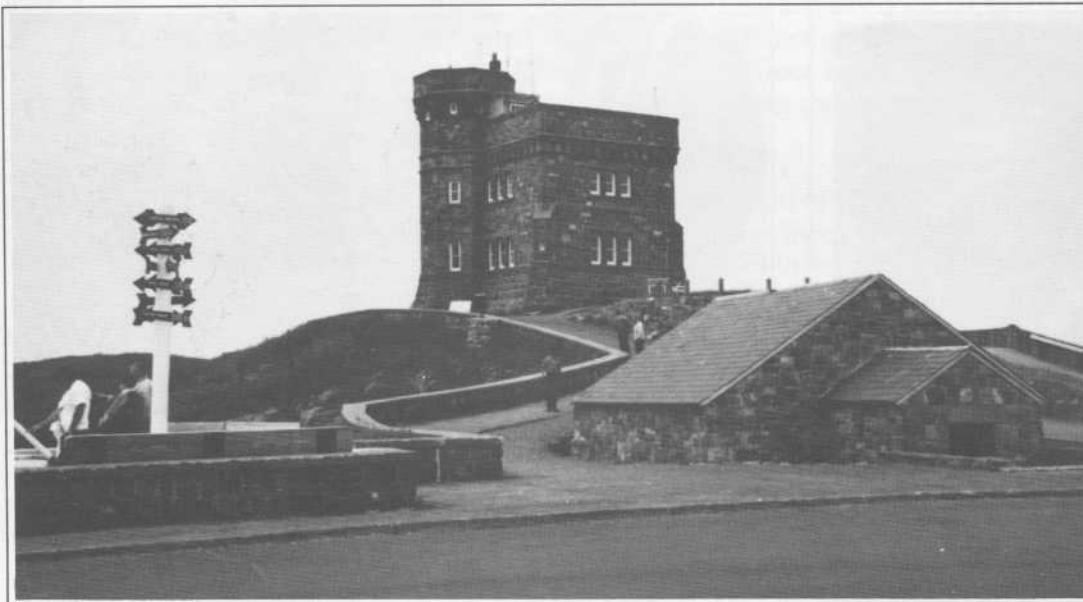
Cabot Tower again until February, 1957.

Things had changed, the spark transmitter had been replaced by a modern 500 w transmitter. I was now experienced - however the tower facilities still included the chemical toilet and little else. Also, a new operator arrived from Sable Island, none other than Don Matthews. We have been co-workers almost continuously ever since.

During the famous sleet storm of March 1958, the power was off at the tower for almost a week. We had to sit and wait and wait. Boredom was relieved by taking turns at refilling the tank on the oil-space heater, or emptying the chemical toilet (if the wind direction was right). At night it was almost scary!

The following month I was posted to "VCE", Cape Race, and Don Matthews followed me three months later. I did not see the tower again until March 1960. One month later, all operations were combined at the new marine/aeradio station at the

St. John's airport. An era had ended! Unforgettable memories!



Cabot Tower is a main feature of the Signal Hill National Historic Sight. It was built between 1897 and 1900. In the summer time, amateur radio groups still use the facility to establish contacts overseas.

problems. The weak signals coming from Battle Harbour and Point Amour in Labrador required keeping the radio frequency (RF) gain on the receiver so high that the receiver would block during transmission. All the operator could hear was a constant thumping noise. Just try sending on a bug without side tone. Nerve-wracking!

Following the training period, I was posted to station "VCM" on Belle Isle, Labrador and did not come back to

St. John's airport. An era had ended! Unforgettable memories!



Personnel Report *(from May 16 to October 16, 1991)*

by **Josanne Leger**

Executive Director's Office

Diane Chapman joined the Public Affairs section on October 15, 1991 as General Office Clerk.

Tamara Gates, Co-Op student, worked in Public Affairs from May 27 to August 23, 1991.

Communications & Culture

Ignace Sumbu's term ended on August 30, 1991.

Gloria Gravel replaces **Ginette Chiasson-Baldwin** as Project Officer assigned to the Canada/New Brunswick COOPERATION Agreement on Cultural Development. Gloria has been seconded for a 12-month period from the Public Service Commission.

Angela Bourgeois is back for a short period until December 20, 1991.

Engineering Section

Dale Snowdon will be taking over the duties of Regional Manager, Broadcast Engineering for a temporary period.

Michel LeBlanc is presently acting as Regional Manager, Spectrum Engineering.

Finance and Administration

Eileen Rafuse is presently on assignment as Administrative Support Clerk.

GTA

Debbie Como who comes from NBTel is on assignment to our department under the Department's Industrial Exchange Program.

Claudette Drisdelle is presently acting as Cost Allocation Supervisor.

Collette LeBlanc is presently acting as Operations Officer.

Pauline Savoie is presently acting as Operations Services Clerk.

Hélène Ouellette joined GTA on September 23, 1991 as District Office Clerk.

Terry Tait is presently on French Language training.

Donald McCuaig retired effective June 30, 1991 with 15 years service.

Ian Wilson retired effective September 30, 1991 with 15 years service.

District Office, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Richard Arnold, formerly from the Halifax District Office was promoted to Inspector-in-Charge, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

District Office, Halifax, N.S.

Sheldon Collins, formerly from the Toronto District Office has transferred to the Halifax District Office.

Leslie Patriquin formerly with Statistics Canada, in Halifax, was appointed Administrative Assistant, Halifax District Office.

District Office, St. John's

Donald Matthews retired effective September 10, 1991 with 35 years service.

Robert O'Leary, formerly from the Halifax District Office has transferred to the St. John's District Office.

GTA - St. John's

Debbie Duggan accepted a term position in GTA St. John's.

35-year presentations



On September 26, 1991 **Pierre Boudreau**, Atlantic Executive Director, visited St. John's District Office to present **Roger Squires**, District Director, with his 35-year long service award. Roger's entire service was with DOC.



Colette LeBlanc (left), Acting Regional Operations Officer with the Government Telecommunications Agency in Moncton, was presented with a medal marking 35 years with the federal public service by **Pierre Boudreau**, Regional Executive Director, during a meeting of Regional Office employees on September 25. Before joining the DOC, Colette worked with the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. Congratulations, Colette.

First "Ham" Convention in Gander

by Roger Squires

Roger Squires, St. John's District Director and John Janes, Communications and Culture Supervisor, attended the very first Amateur Radio Convention held in Newfoundland-Labrador, from July 12 to 14, 1991. Sponsored by the Amateur Radio Club of Newfoundland (ARCON) in Gander, the event attracted more than 100 amateurs from across the province.

The St. John's District Office made a significant contribution to the success of the Convention by providing a spectrum management display with appropriate posters, pamphlets and publications. Both Roger and John made presentations as members of various panels. Roger was responsible for presenting a 90 minutes seminar on recent events affecting radio amateurs, which included the new licence structure, delegated examiners, CPC-0-03 and EARP.



From left to right: John Janes, Communications and Culture Supervisor (St. John's D.O.), Mac Moss, President of Amateur Radio Club of Newfoundland (ARCON) and delegated radio examiner for DOC, and Roger Squires, St. John's District Director. (At rear: unknown)

(continued from page 8 - Wheelchair Basketball)

On the occasion of this well disputed match, a 50/50 draw was organized and the sum of \$84.00 was collected. Pierre Boudreau, Atlantic Executive Director, was the lucky winner and generously offered his prize to the Moncton Wheelchair Basketball Team, a gesture well appreciated.

in your wheelchair if your are going backwards - you end up with your back on the floor and a bump on your head. We also found out what kind of team we were up against: swift, skilled and willing to do anything to win. They had given us the slow wheelchairs!

Nevertheless, we overcame this and scored our first basket followed sometime later by a second. We were on a roll. The half ended and we were only behind by two points. After some discussion and a few comments about Al Boucher's play, they decided to spot us another 50 points.

We knew they were getting serious when they went to a man to man defence in the second half. No matter, we still got our two baskets plus a foul shot. There was less than a minute left in the game and we were ahead by four. Thirty



From left to right, sitting: Alonzo Boucher, Jacques LeBlanc, Éric Huard, Micheline St-Germain, Peter Cameron, Richard Dionne, Bernie Cormier, Gaétane Savoie, Roby Cameron; standing: Norman Boudreau, Roland Richard, Micheal LeBlanc, Paul Soucy and Keith Anderson.

seconds left and we were ahead by two and Al Boucher had the ball; only had to get the ball over centre court and kill the clock. It didn't work. They stole the ball from us and scored as the buzzer sounded. Boy did we ever scare them! They thought they were going to loose.

Final score was 104 to 104. They immediately demanded a rematch. Being good sports we accepted but stipulated that we would have to let our blisters heal and pick a date when Al Boucher was out of town. When are you going out of town Al?

by Anita Le Blanc

Our secret is out! Now everyone will know what we do at work! So sit back, relax and I will take you behind the door to unfold the mystery of "A day in the life of the Saint John District Office".

The "characters" include: Captain Clint (Clinton Landry), Vacation Vic (Victor Smith), Little Linda (L. Harrigan), Joker Jacques (J. Hebert), Banker Bernice (B. Sears), Willing Wally (W. Burke), Mighty Michele (M. Savoie), Keen Kevin (K. Ball), Gadget Gary (G. Dupuis) and Anxious Anita (A. Le Blanc).

District Offices are unique as employees must have knowledge of all positions; being specialists in their own positions is not enough. Our office is divided into three distinct areas: Administration, Authorization and Enforcement.

Administration is the "heart beat" of the office, without these people an office could not survive. Their duties include helping the EL's with accommodations, taking care of the mail, typing, organizing the office, budgeting and managing available resources. Captain Clint, Banker Bernice and Little Linda work their magic here.

Authorization is the department's "bread and butter"

section. Processing applications for all licensing categories is their main function and where the majority of revenue is collected. Administering amateur exams, analyzing licensee financial accounts, assigning call signs, processing certificates for both amateur and radio

restricted operators, and maintaining quality control also makes up some of their duties.

"We are always ready to provide assistance to consultants or the general public themselves who require assistance in licensing their radios" says Mighty Michele. She also points out that "providing information for candidates for radio operators certificates occupies part of our time as well. Our work is varied which helps to keep it interesting." Anxious Anita, Gadget Gary, Mighty Michele and Vacation Vic keep this section running smoothly. You can't lose with names like these!

helping the public with interference problems" as it is that part of their work that can be resolved and actually get a "finished product". Sub-office responsibilities are part of their duties where daily contact with Numa Bellefleur and Jim Fournier is a ritual. "We try to keep them informed on all that is going on" says Joker Jacques.

P.E.I. has become a sub-office associated with our office and has added more responsibility to all three sections. Of course, the administrative duties are still performed by Mary Clare Butler and culture development handled by Paul Roch. Willing Wally is the "new

kid on the block" and appears to be enjoying his job here. He is being trained in Authorization and Enforcement right now and says "it has been fun".

Now, of course, we try to have some fun throughout the day so as to ease tension and pressures that build up due to heavy workload. Banker Bernice and Captain Clint chat away about their kids. Joker Jacques won't take a coffee break but calls his wife and talks to his kids. Keen Kevin will take a simple innocent remark someone says to him and run it into a funny situation. Little Linda will gab to

Banker Bernice about what is going on in her life. Vacation Vic laughs a lot, seeing the lighter side of most things.

The door to the mystery is closing now. All our characters have gone home to play a new role - of husband, wife, father, mother and er, "swingers"?



The Saint John District Office is comprised of the following "characters": from left to right, sitting: Anita Le Blanc, Bernice Sears and Linda Harrigan; standing: Clinton Landry, Gary Dupuis, Michele Savoie, Victor Smith and Jacques Hebert. (Missing: Kevin Ball and Wally Burke)

Enforcement is the "back bone" of the office. New policy procedures are implemented and elimination of radio interference complaints from the public and commercial companies are undertaken here. Keen Kevin points out "we as a department get great satisfaction in



Dreamers and Doers

by Gordon Pole

REGINALD FESSENDEN, Broadcasting's Unsung Champion

On Christmas Eve, December 1906, a telegraph operator aboard one of the United Fruit Company's ships awaited the message that was to follow a 'CQ' 'CQ' 'CQ' radio signal.

Suddenly, he heard the sound of a "VOICE" over his headset, followed by a violin and singing. He listened barely believing what he was hearing, a voice! music! It was like having a telephone, but there were no wires out at sea.

It certainly was remarkable! This was 1906, Marconi was still only able to send messages in one direction using Morse's telegraph code and yet here was unmistakably a voice by wireless "telegraph". People were still recovering from the shock that "dots & dashes" could be transmitted by wireless telegraph between trained operators.

The voice heard was that of Reginald Fessenden, a remarkable Canadian inventor who at the time of his death was credited with over 500 patents. His song was a first breakthrough in what we now consider as broadcasting. Little did he know that such an early blend of technology and culture would someday develop into the Department of Communications' twofold mandate.

A solid foundation

The inventor's ancestors had come to North America in 1628 settling in Cambridge, Mass. Unlike Thomas Edison's forebears, his did not wait until after the revolution before moving

to Canada where Reginald was born on October 6, 1866.

His father was an Anglican clergy-

man, and although living modestly, he was able to offer Reginald a good education first at a Military Academy, followed by Trinity College in Port Hope and Bishop's College in Québec.

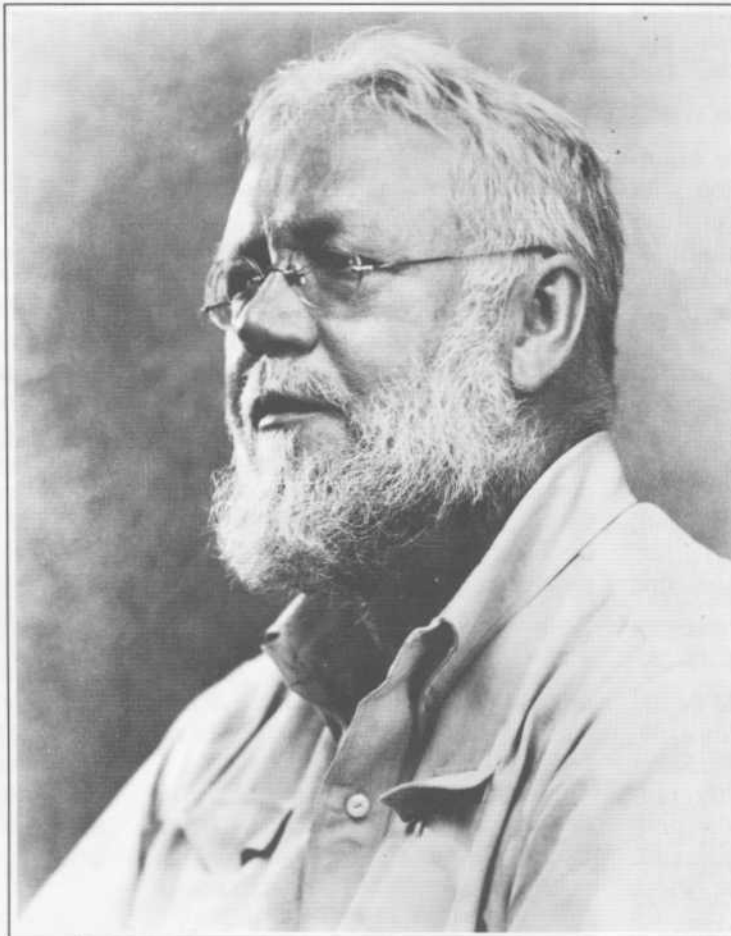
He became interested in the study of electrical communications but lacking money, he sheered into teaching, becoming principal at a high school in Bermuda. This did not last and he moved to New York City in order to secure a job with Edison Electric, first working with the "cable gangs" laying wire under the streets.

He was later invited to work with the legendary Edison in developing improvements to the lighting plant dynamos. One day Edison asked him if he knew anything of chemistry. When Fessenden said "no", Edison replied: "good, I want you to be a chemist!" Fessenden eventually became Chief Chemist for the Edison Company.

Unfortunately, the economy of the period hovered between feast and famine and the Edison Company found itself in financial straights. Fessenden was one amongst many who were out of a job because of the slowdown.

Now 24, he went to work for Westinghouse. This too was short-lived, but George Westinghouse's influence was strong enough to enable Fessenden to become Chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Pittsburg. During his seven-year tenure, he was able to delve into the mysteries of the wireless communications phenomena.

(continued on page 12)



Reginald Fessenden (1866-1932)

man, and although living modestly, he was able to offer Reginald a good education first at a Military Academy, followed by Trinity College in Port Hope and Bishop's College in Québec.

In this regard, Fessenden was different from the classic empirical inventors of his era who learned by the seat of their pants. Although he never obtained his degree at Bishop's, leaving at age 18, he

DOC Halifax tests computerized programs at exhibition

By Tamara Gates

The Halifax District Office of Communications Canada completed a successful trial-run of computerized radio operator certification and station licensing programs while participating in the first annual Boston Whaler Dartmouth Sea Derby Exhibition August 9, 10, and 11.

"While there are still a couple of little bugs in the system left to work out, this seems to be a popular and efficient means of administering the exams and processing license applications," said **Bob O'Leary**, a radio inspector at the Halifax District Office.

Thirty-four candidates were examined over the three day exhibition, with 18 candidates receiving their certification that weekend. Several mariners "just trying" the test eagerly picked up the study handbook, vowing to return for another shot during the exhibition or in the testing periods at the district office. Three of these individuals also had their stations licensed.

"You can't ignore the value of the 'spin-off' clients that result from these exhibitions," said **Robert Simpson**, another radio inspector from Halifax. "The Monday after the derby, someone



BDV: Bob O'Leary, to the right, delivering a temporary licence to a marine radio owner during the Boston Whaler Dartmouth Sea Derby Exhibition, August 9, 10, and 11.

came in to be licensed and said they had seen us at the derby," he added.

Three computer terminals were available to individuals interested in taking the 26 question multiple-choice exam, while another computer was used for completing the license applications. If the candidate was successful in passing the exam, a laminated certificate was processed on the spot. However, if the

participant was unsuccessful, a print-out provided the correct answers to the questions answered incorrectly.

"Convenience to radio regulations for the client is an important issue in compliance, since presently exams are offered only the first and third Mondays of every month," said Radio Inspector **Earl Hoeg**.

The current situation means that some individuals may not be able to make it to the district office during particular times, the end result being fewer people complying with the regulations.

The Halifax office hopes that they will eventually be able to adopt the computerized program as the regular examination practice, not only during exhibitions, but in the office itself.

(continued from page 11 - Fessenden)

From here on, his life would be devoted to wireless communication experiments, backed privately by United States millionaires. His unpredictability created turbulence in his life. In the competitive market of developing technologies, his supporters pulled out to favour others. In the course of his later years, Fessenden won a lawsuit against the Marconi Company for patent infringement.

By 1906, Fessenden had transmitted, by a freak of nature, the first two-way broadcast of code across the Atlantic. He later received a mail message from a man in Scotland who had received fragmentary portions of his Christmas Eve broadcast. This, at a time when Marconi thought that radio signals were carried through the air as a whiplash effect; Fessenden, on the other hand,

understood that they expanded like the ripples around a stone dropped in water.

Fessenden was also attributed the design of the heterodyne circuit, he anticipated radar and sonar, actually developing the system. Interestingly enough for our maritime readers, he developed the use of radio detection for locating ships at sea.

He never became rich from his inventions although toward the end of his life he enjoyed financial security. He remained a Canadian at heart, spending some summers in Ontario. And as the Canadian story goes, there remains many unrecognized champions in our history.

