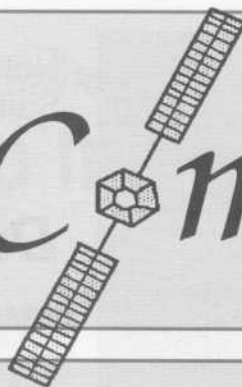


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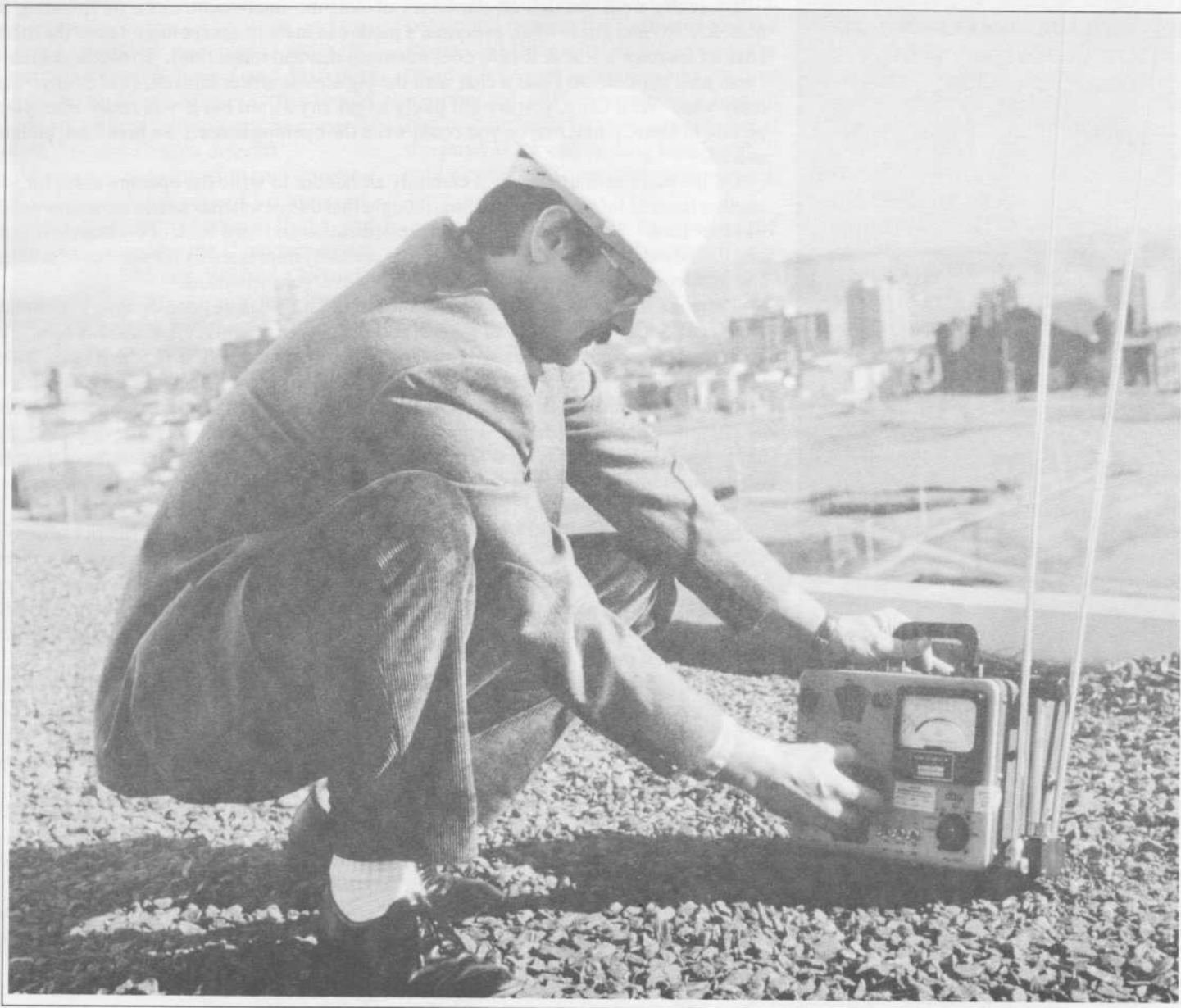
InterComm



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Spectrum Control Operations in Atlantic

Bob O'Leary, Radio Inspector from the Halifax District Office, performs signal strength measurements using a field strength meter from the roof-top of the Willow Tree Building, in Halifax. (DOC's - Atlantic image bank)

22 years of service, innovation and creativity



Communications
Canada

Atlantic InterComm is the internal newsletter for Communications Canada, Atlantic Region.

It is published on a quarterly basis 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

Editing assistance for this issue was provided by Tamara Gates.

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

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

Notes from the
Saint John District Director

Doing a lot with less



I recently went through all the issues of Atlantic InterComm since its founding in March, 1990 and guess what, everyone's picture is in there except mine - even the other District Director's - R & R (this does not mean rest and relaxation). So needless to say, I was a bit put out. So I had a chat with the big cheese writer himself, Paul Soucy. His reply was, "Well Clint, you are not likely to get any award but if you really want your picture in InterComm, maybe you could write the opening notes". So here I am, picture and all.

On the more serious side, it is certainly an honour to write the opening notes for yet another issue of Intercomm. I for one, thought that this newsletter would die a slow death like the "Link". However, it is through the dedication and hard work of the team involved that this newsletter is alive and kicking. I am certainly impressed by the number of articles and quality in its layout. A pat on the back to everyone involved.

There is a lot that has happened since the last issue. We have gone through yet another appraisal period, another federal budget, another twelve month review, another new year operational plan and we have survived. This says a lot for our region, the districts and subs and especially our people who are without a doubt our most valued resource.

I think that management has a good reason to be proud and thankful of our employees in Atlantic Canada. Over the years, we have gone through a downsizing exercise, and have "done more with less" and "done more with even less". Staff has gone the extra yard when required. The year end operational reviews sure outline our accomplishments and we have done a lot with the resources we have on hand.

Since the beginning of this fiscal year, it has been decided that the district office in Charlottetown will no longer have a District Director's position. However, it will be staffed by an "Inspector-in-Charge" (EL-05) who will report to me. All activities/services such as authorization, interference investigations, etc. will continue to be provided to clients on P.E.I. It is hoped that this position will be filled by July and give some stability to the Charlottetown office.

During the past year, staff from St. John's, Halifax, Moncton and Bathurst sub-office and especially our Saint John district office has been providing support on a rotational basis to the Charlottetown office. To all those who have "done time" on P.E.I., many sincere thanks. Many thanks to Mary Clare who has seen many faces come and go and has had to cope with many inconveniences.

Enough of the past. What does the future hold for us? Well there has been a lot of talk about an "SOA" (Special Operating Agency) for Spectrum Management. Studies are presently being conducted to see if this is feasible. I'm sure we will be hearing more on this issue in the years to come.

Then there is PS2000. For some, PS2K might be a revolutionary change but the proposed recommendations of the various Task Forces are aimed at streamlining/simplifying government processes - cutting out red tape and fewer rules and regulations.

All of these initiatives are aimed at making your life and mine as public servants a whole lot better, freeing-up valuable time to better serve our client.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone the best in the new year (fiscal year, that is) in taking on the challenges that are in store for us.

Clinton J. Landry

Search and Rescue Mission in Newfoundland Great Job for Two Radio Inspector

by Tamara Gates

February 27, 1991 was a foul day, and because of the strong North-East winds, the heavy snow drifted high on the roads in many places. It was certainly not a night in which one was apt to be going out in. However, as later events unfolded that night, radio inspectors David Bouzane and Jeff Butt from the St. John's District Office would become critical participants in a search for a downed Cessna aircraft.

An emergency location transmission (E.L.T.) had been picked up by an incoming Canadian Airlines flight and signals received by the Canadian Coast Guard ship, the Sir Wilfred Grenfell, indicated that the aircraft was located somewhere in the Portugal Cove/Bell Island area. Further direction-finding by the D.O.C.'s mobile unit narrowed down the general area in which the aircraft was located so the search area

could be reduced.

The E.L.T. signal peaked in intensity as Bouzane and Butt drove past a church, indicating the aircraft was somewhere along the hillside at the rear of the church. The trek up the hill became difficult, however the ground search continued despite the darkness and the storm. At this point in the search, the entire party had to scale a treacherous ice-covered cliff by making a human chain. "Jeff and I barely caught one of the guys as he was sliding backwards," said Bouzane. "Some parts of the search were definitely hair-raising!"

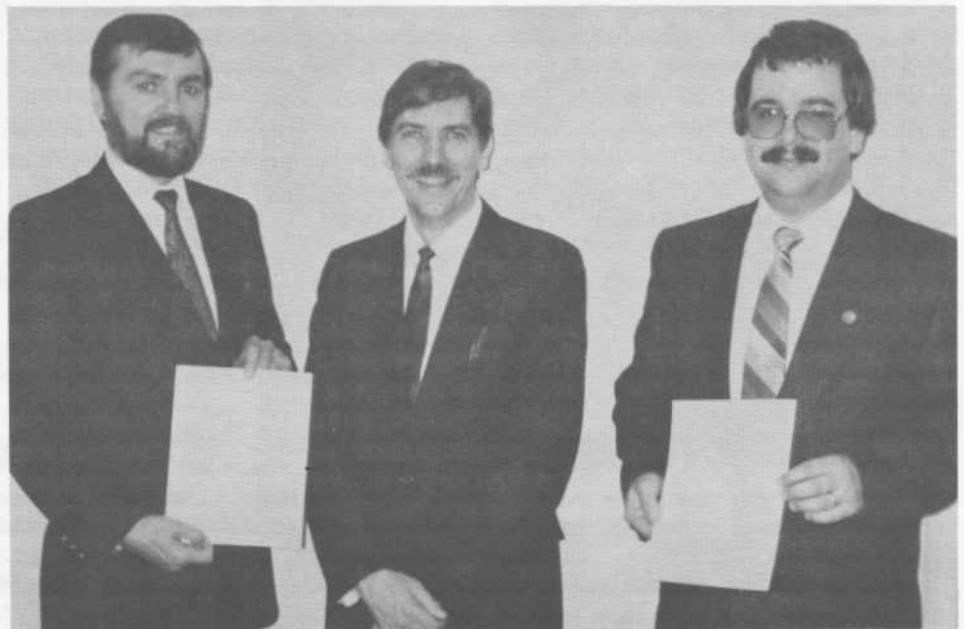
Once the immediate location of the source of the Emergency Location Transmitter was determined, the hand-held d.f. equipment was rendered useless because all of the transmission signal levels were of the same intensity. However, soon the rescuers were in the general vicinity of the aircraft, and they detected a faint smell of fuel from the aircraft. Bouzane recalls that when they finally reached the top of the hill to try to get a better idea of where the fuel was

originating from, winds were strong enough that they were physically moving people around.

Just when it became apparent that conditions were becoming too treacherous to continue, Sgt. Butt of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (R.N.C.) decided to stop the search and wait until daylight to resume. At this point however, the fumes became more intense, and it was decided that all 20 men in the search party would form a line, arms-width apart, in order to begin a sweep maneuver. Within just moments the aircraft was located, but unfortunately the crash had resulted in the death of the lone occupant.

Members of the R.N.C. then secured the site, and sent the rest of the rescue party back down the hill to the parking lot, where a van from the Crime Prevention Unit was waiting with lots of hot coffee, soft drinks and sandwiches.

With the search completed, David Bouzane and Jeff Butt were fed, warmed and debriefed, and finally headed home to some much-deserved sleep.



David Bouzane (left) and Jeffery W. Butt (right), two radio inspectors for St. John's District Office, received the Director General's award for their demonstrated professionalism

during the performance of duties in that particular search and rescue mission. In the centre, Pierre Boudreau, Executive Director, Atlantic Region.

Director General's Award for Two Groups of Employees



From the left: Paul Soucy, Serge Martin, France Jean and Eugène Aucoin

by Tamara Gates

Executive Director Pierre Boudreau presented the Director General's award to two teams of employees from the Atlantic Region.

David Bouzane and Jeffery W. Butt, two radio inspectors for St. John's District Office, received the award for their demonstrated professionalism during the performance of duties in a search and rescue mission. They located a missing aircraft under difficult weather conditions, during the night of February 28, in the Portugal Cove area near St. John's NFLD.

The second team of employees includes Eugene Aucoin, Paul Soucy, Serge Martin and France Jean from the Moncton Regional Office for their contributions to the organization of a workshop on the implementation of Public Service 2000, held in Mon-

ton, April 3rd, 1991.

The workshop provided an opportunity for the 100 participating senior regional officials from 16 federal departments in N.B., to share their ideas and thus advance a step towards the implementation of the recommendations made in PS 2000.

"It is important to recognize such a contribution to a project dedicated to the improvement of the Public Service of Canada," said Mr. Boudreau. PS 2000 involves a change in philosophy within the federal government, with less emphasis on a bureaucratic system and more on client satisfaction.

The Director General's Award program is a merit program designed to recognize further the work done by employees in a manner beyond what could normally be expected.

Award of Excellence for Pierre Boudreau

by Tamara Gates

Pierre Boudreau, along with the rest of the Mobile Satellite Communications System (MSAT) development team, received an award of excellence in the merit category for his contributions to the development of the system and related services in Canada.

The development of MSAT will open up potential new domestic and foreign markets for Canadian products and services and, when launched in 1994, the effects of MSAT will be felt by several million people in North America, thanks to the singular commitment of this group of employees.

These achievements mark the culmination of technical and program work for over a period of eleven years. Such activities included market, commercial, socio-economic and policy studies, technological development, international frequency assignment and trials. As the program manager, Pierre's work involved planning, marketing, acting as a liaison and generally working to ensure the economic viability of this new mobile satellite system for Canada.

Awards of Excellence recognize the best, most exemplary contributions from departmental Suggestion and Merit Awards, selected by the Incentive Award Board from departmental nominations.

Along with Pierre, here are other members of the MSAT development team: Demetre Athanassiadis, John Braden, Robert Briethaupt, Don Buchanan, John Butterworth, Jean-Guy Dumoulin, David Gilvary, Violet Goyette, Robert Huck, John Kent, Allan MacLachy, Joseph McNally, Allister Pedersen, Harold Raine, Hugh Reekie, John Sydor, Vera Wills.

A Tribute to Annie Pevlin

by Anita LeBlanc

As some of you may know, Annie F. Pevlin, who worked for the DOC for many years, died March 22, 1991.

Annie worked for us when the Government Telecommunications Agency (GTA) started up back in the early 1970's and retired only in 1986. While with GTA, she worked with Gordon Pole and Bernice Sears.

"Annie helped glide me over some of the rough spots when I first came to the

office," says Pole. "I would have been dead-in-the-water if she hadn't been around to help me out."

She also knew and/or worked with some of the "grandfathers" of DOC: P.R. Ritcey, C.A. Brannen, A.K. Smith, E. Ginn, E.M. Falvey and J.F. Johnston.

We at DOC Operations, will remember Annie as always smiling, proud of her children and of course, always talking about

her precious grandchildren. She was very active, curling in the winter and selling her own baked goods and crafts for church functions. During the summer she also enjoyed helping her husband Clarence with the vegetable garden at the camp.

With Annie's passing, her family is left with a void that will not mend easily. We extend to Annie's family our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences.

Personnel Report *(from January 1 - May 15, 1991)*

by Josanne Léger

Executive Director's Office

Marthe Saulnier formerly with Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, in Moncton, was appointed Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director.

Susan Lirette joined the Public Affairs section in February 1991 as General Office Clerk. Her term ended on June 7, 1991.

Serge Martin's term was extended to March 31, 1992.

Communications & Culture

Anna Rail will assume the duties as Manager, Cultural Agreements until March 31, 1992.

Alonzo Boucher was promoted to Technology Development Officer.

Ginette Chiasson-Baldwin, previously the Cultural Officer is on an acting appointment as the new Manager of Cultural Programs and Policies until March 31, 1992.

France Jean has returned to the Communications & Culture Section after being on an acting appointment as Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director since August 1990.

Paul Roch's term was extended to March 31, 1992.

Ignace Sumbu's term was extended to July 31, 1991.

Micheline St-Germain's term was extended to September 27, 1991.

Diane Strzechowski's term ended at the end of March 1991.

Engineering Section

Rachel Leger is back after being away for a period of 6 months. She was on an acting appointment as Administrative Assistant in the Communications & Culture Section.

Finance and Administration

Serge Gaudet was promoted to Director, Regional Management Services.

Jacques LeBlanc was promoted to Regional Informatics Manager.

Shelley Furze was promoted to Administrative Support Clerk.

Léo-Paul Drisdelle who was on an acting appointment as Administrative Officer has returned to his duties as Material Management Clerk.

Alfred Dionne has returned to his duties as Supervisor, Records. He was on an acting appointment as Material Management Clerk.

Lucille Léger has returned to her duties as Records Clerk. She was on an acting appointment as Supervisor, Records.

After returning from assignment in the Engineering Section, **Eileen Rafuse** spent only a very brief time in the Records Section before moving on to act in the Administrative Support Clerk position.

Brenda Maillet's term was extended to January 9, 1992.

Personnel

Claudine Hetherington's term was extended to June 28, 1991.

GTA

Ian Wilson is presently on an acting assignment in Ottawa.

Norman Boudreau is presently acting as Director, GTA.

Terry Tait is presently acting as Telecommunications Manager.

District Office, Saint John, N.B.

Kevin Ball is presently on French Language training.

Jacques Hébert is presently acting as Supervisor, Licencing and Authorization/ Enforcement.

Wally Burke, formerly from the Halifax District Office, has transferred to the Saint John District Office.

Numa Bellefleur was promoted to Inspector-in-Charge of the Moncton Sub-office.

District Office, Halifax, N.S.

Peter Hill is presently on French language training.

Gerry Currie has returned to his position as Inspector, Radio Regulations. He had been on an acting appointment as Instructor/Trainer.

Richard Arnold is presently acting as Supervisor, Licencing and Authorization/Enforcement.

Janice Wombolt returned to part-time after being full-time for a period of three months.



35 Years of Service

Fred Grezel, Standards Officer at the Moncton Regional Office, was recently presented with a 35-year Long Service Award. Currently, Fred is involved in ship inspections, E.L. recruit training, and is the Atlantic region co-ordinator for SCOMS. He is also a long-standing member of the Labour Management committee, on behalf of IBEW. Congratulations and keep up the the good work Fred! On the photo, to the left, Deputy Executive Director, George Richard, presents Fred a medal; back: Pierre Boudreau, Executive Director.

I Don't Have a Drinking Problem!

By Wally Burke

I drink. I get drunk. I fall down. I get up. No problem! This humorous look at drinking is often seen printed on T-shirts, posters and bumper stickers across the country. Unfortunately however, for many people alcohol abuse is a problem. In fact, it is the most widespread form of drug abuse facing our society today.

The Canadian media heavily promotes alcohol usage. During 1987 in Canada alone, 150 million dollars worth of advertising was devoted to alcohol promotion. It is difficult to believe that this is permitted when one of three families currently has a family member who abuses alcohol. Recent statistics were extracted from various national surveys:

Alcohol and Crime

- robbery cases: 72% of the offenders had been using alcohol
- murder cases: 86% of the offenders and up to 60% of the victims had been using alcohol
- rape cases: 50% of the rapists had been drinking
- assault cases: 72% of the offenders were under the influence of alcohol

Alcohol and Family Violence

- 67% of sexually aggressive acts against children involve the use of alcohol
- up to 90% of partners who batter are under the influence
- 70% of battered women are frequent drinkers

Women and Alcohol

- studies link female drinking with birth defects such as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome as well as child neglect and abuse
- the most commonly reported drinking problem experienced by women is driving while intoxicated
- women's drinking and associated problems were strongly associated with the drinking behavior of their

spouses, partners, families and friends

Children of Alcoholics (COA's)

- 50% become addicted themselves
- 30% marry someone who is or becomes an alcoholic
- up to 80% of people served by the Employee Assistance Programs are adult COA's
- COA's are prone to experience a range of psychological difficulties including anxiety, suicidal tendencies, eating disorders and compulsive achieving.

With so many apparent pitfalls associated with alcohol use, why is it that so many individuals require it as a part of their lives? Some say that they drink to put themselves in a social mood or to

give themselves more confidence. Others may tend to drink because of the social pressure associated with it. Often it seems that alcohol use, like drug use, can be a form of "escapism". It helps people to temporarily get away from their problems and may seem to fill a void, at least in the short-term.

Many people seek religious comfort in order to fill such a void. Others choose to seek psychological counseling or involve themselves in other types of support groups.

On a final note, when a person is a recovering alcoholic, it is often necessary for them to avoid any environment in which alcohol is served or consumed. However, in our society many social gatherings involve drinking and have "spirits" so readily available, we seem to be unconsciously sending these people a message -- "you can't attend this party".

If you are experiencing a problem with alcohol or know of someone in your family or a friend who may be in such a predicament, you are not alone. The federal government has an avenue in which to take when you find yourself in this or any other situation which you can not control. This avenue is the Employee Assistance Program and it is available to all employees who are experiencing problems that interfere with their ability to function effectively in the workplace.

This program operates on a strictly confidential basis and no information will be released. Nothing will be put on your personnel file at work. If you require any other assistance, please contact your local Health and Welfare Public Service Nurse.

Welcome to Saint John Wally!

Mr. Wally Burke has transferred to our St. John N.B. District Office. Staff at Halifax District Office held a send-off party for Wally on February 16th at the home of Terry Landry. Wally said that he was eagerly looking forward to the new environment but saddened to leave his friends at Halifax. Everyone at the party exchanged their favorite recipes. Special thanks goes out to Mr. Jim Wambolt for his guitar skills which led to a great sing along. We at the Halifax office wish you the best of luck in your new endeavours Wally and were sorry to see you leave.



Let's talk about culture

Commentary

by Ignace Sumbu

A culture is something that must be communicated from generation to generation to bind a country together, or in other words, to arouse the people's interest and sense of belonging.

Therefore, our role as a sector responsible for cultural development goes beyond the simple function of awarding financial contributions, to fully take on the meaning of "building a country", or in other words, creating a feeling of pride and belonging in Canadian society from sea to sea.

From this viewpoint, it becomes easy to explain and understand the expansion of the cultural section of the Department of Communications, which is accompanied, appropriately, by the current regionalization process.

Did Isay "expansion"? The word may have a pejorative connotation in that it may be associated with the idea that the cultural sector is the most important one in the Department. Such an interpretation is false! The Communications Technology and Spectrum Management sectors, for example, which have long been associated with the Department, are the foundations of the development of means of communications. It is precisely the new technologies developed by these sectors that have enabled us, the cultural sector and others, to work on "building the country".

It is important to point this out, so that we may realize that cultural development is everyone's concern and that the cultural sector does not have a monopoly, but simply a "leading role". The communications and cultural sectors were not placed together by chance; this combination is the result of a well thought-out process.

What about culture

In the Atlantic region, the cultural sector is facing several challenges, both in terms of contents and form. In regards to content, our primary responsibility is to clearly identify the present

level of development before coming to a decision on what the level should be. We cannot reach this fundamental objective without setting up measurement indicators capable of identifying the levels of development of the various cultural and artistic disciplines. For example, before determining future orientations in theatre, we must know at what point this discipline now stands.

The second responsibility, in keeping with the first, is to inventory the needs by discipline, by province, and by linguistic community. A real strategy for cultural development in the region can only be worked out in light of this assessment.

Before regionalization, such an exercise could have come to nothing. Now, it is up to the regions to clearly demonstrate the pertinence of their activities. Regionalization always goes hand in hand with accountability. The Atlantic Region is not the only one to face this harsh reality.

In terms of form, we need to identify the most effective course of action and adapt it to our regional reality. The



Ignace Sumbu, Cultural Affairs Officer, Atlantic Region.

recently signed cultural agreements, which I believe recognize the specificities of each province, are the best examples of this. The search for global solutions to the major cultural concerns in the Atlantic region must take into account the priorities established by our provincial partners.

In conclusion

The major challenges in the Atlantic Region in the coming years could be to: 1) establish cultural development measurement indicators; 2) identify the present and past levels of cultural development; 3) identify the future level of development desired and establish a strategic approach to regional development.

This is an awesome task but nothing is impossible to a willing heart, as the saying goes.

Chip Off the Old Block

The October/November issue of "Emergency Preparedness Digest" features an article on Wilf Wilcox, son of Ron Wilcox, District Director of Halifax.

The article described Wilf Wilcox as the "energetic mayor" of Cambridge Bay, N.W.T. who has set out to implement a practical emergency plan in the event of a power failure in the far North. Wilf says, "Power failures are a nuisance at any time, but here where temperatures are so severe in winter, failures are poten-

tially life threatening."

Now thirty years old, Wilf moved north to live permanently after completing his business degree, and by the looks of things, plans to stay there for a long time.

Ron, one of the founders of the Regional Emergency Telecommunications Committee for the province of Newfoundland, has obviously passed on his enthusiasm for implementation of necessary measures to make this planet a safer place to live. Good show guys!!!

A Bachelor's Rules on Being Fixed-Up

By Earl Hoeg (Idea from Edward Zuckerman, Men's Life Magazine)

Being single and having married or attached friends and relatives can be an interesting experience, but not one that I would recommend too highly. You see, world concerns, the environment, and the Middle East all take second seat to them finding you the girl of your dreams.

This phenomenon can not be blamed on them solely, because once in desperation you probably inquired as to whether they had any single, intelligent, and attractive friends. Big Mistake!! The resultant effect is a swarm of questions regarding your personal preferences.

The questions that ensue include "What kind of girls do you like? Tall... Short... Intellectuals... Brunettes... Blondes... Redheads... Meaty... Skinny... Your age... Older... Younger???"

Now, this probably sounds like an excellent opportunity to all you married guys, being able to order a girlfriend to suit your desired specifications... "Yeah, I think this week I will have an intelligent, athletic brunette -- not too meaty, with brown eyes, and a beautiful sparkling smile." Well, this would be great if only it worked that way.

I must admit though, that I have occasionally accepted a "fix-up" from the persons listed below. However, the quality of the information taken from these sources must be scrutinized quite closely to prevent the date from becoming a "Nightmare".

Mom - Sorry Mom, I know you love me, but your taste in females leaves something to be desired. And it doesn't matter if your friend swears that her niece is "a very pretty

girl"; you and your friends just do not constitute reliable sources.

Women - Approach recommendations that include "nice personality" with extreme caution. In fact approach all suggestions from women about other women with care; they are just too easy on one another. A case in point, women will recommend their friends with traits like "dresses very nicely". Now to a woman this might be a life-and-death matter, but to a guy this ranks about number 29, right after "remembers to clean the dryer's lint screen after every use".

Men - There are a couple of precautions you must take when accepting an endorsement of a date from another guy. First, be certain that he has actually met this girl in person. If he has met her and still strongly advises you to go out with her, he had better have a good reason for not dating her himself. "Happily married" gets by, but be cautious of "I value her friendship too much" or "she's just not my type".

Me - After all has been said and done the most reliable source is yourself. Not even your closest friend can select the female which will spark that special chemistry, the girl with the look and personality that touches a nerve and makes you feel warm inside.

It takes a lot more work, but as long as you learn to enjoy looking, you can be as selective as you want and you never have to worry about someone else taking the credit for your happiness.

Halifax D.O. Goes Recycling

By Debbie Duggin

What is the largest component of solid waste? No, that's not the answer -- it's paper!

According to the dictionary, recycling means to use again and again. In Halifax, we have begun recycling paper.

The Halifax Paper Caper began after we found our man - one that paid by the pound: two cents for bond and three cents for computer (only carbon was discarded). Our confidential, or I should say, protected, met with the shredder while the remainder went to a corrugated container.

After many hours of shredding and collecting, our big day finally arrived. The Dodge Van was filled to the rafters and when empty we had accumulated \$3.80. But not to despair, we will overcome. Although it may take a long time, it means big money for a charity.

Be it outdated publications or just waste paper, it now goes to one of our corrugated containers.





Dreamers and Doers

by Gordon Pole

GISBORNE: A Pioneer of the Telegraphic Link

Frederick Newton Gisborne was a "doer" as well as a "dreamer". A giant of a man in stature and deed, he was the sort who would not give up, chasing the impossible dream in order to make it a reality. A descendent of Sir Isaac Newton, he set out to make his own mark on history. Unfortunately, he became one of the many Canadian inventors who were used, and then shoved aside and ignored.

Setting the Stage

At age 18 he left England equipped with an education in mathematics and civil engineering, to tour Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and Guatemala. Then he stopped home briefly to pack for good and emigrate to Canada. He tried farming near St. Eustache, Quebec, while at the same time reading everything he could get his hands on relating to electricity and telegraphy.

In 1847 he learned that Sam Morse was setting up a school for telegraphers in Montreal and quickly made it his business to enrol. His engineering background, along with some of the scientific curiosity likely inherited from Newton, enabled him not only to show an unusual grasp of telegraphy, but also to make minor improvements to the telegraphic system.

The Beginning of the Dream

Soon his expertise enabled him to become superintendent of the British North American Electric Telegraph Association and as such, constructed a 112 mile pole line connecting Quebec City to Riviere du Loup. But, as a "doer" chasing success, he was not satisfied as superintendent--the "dreamer" in him was too restless for that.

These dreams carried him into New Brunswick with visions of the "light-

ning wire" uniting Upper and Lower Canada. However, New Brunswickers were more interested in communicating with Maine than with anywhere as far away as Montreal or Quebec City. There was no business there; trade was north

and south.

Who was this 24-year-old upstart who wanted to control telegraphy? He was one to be watched! They sent a warning letter to Joseph Howe in Nova

(Continued on page 12)



Putting up Government telephone lines through the rural district. (Photo: Department of Energy, Mines & Resources - National Archives of Canada)

GISBORNE *(continued)*

Scotia about this "hustler". However, Howe was unaffected by this prejudice and liked the young man's style. Howe, part of a government commission appointed to study telegraphy, shared the same vision as Gisborne.

So soon, Gisborne set out to establish the Halifax-Amherst link, thus ending the short lived Pony Express. Already, communications technology had displaced its first workers.

To put things in the context of time, it was November 1849, and both Edison and Bell were two years old. Edison's family had moved from the Digby area of Nova Scotia to Ontario, and Bell's grandfather had left Newfoundland to return to Scotland. Marconi and Fessenden were not yet even gleams in their fathers eyes.

Gisborne the "doer" was not prepared to vegetate as the manager of the Nova Scotia Government Telegraphs. The dreamer had more in mind than that -- a telegraph line connecting the mainland with the colony of Newfoundland. This would cut European message time by 48 hours. A line was completed around Conception Bay in 1851.

Now, armed with 500 "pounds sterling" and a charter for the "Newfoundland Electric Telegraph", he moved inland. With six companions he set out across the island. Dreamers would have balked at the journey, and even his six associates gave up, leaving him to find himself a quartet of tough Indian woodsmen.

Gisborne's own description however, was that it had been an "arduous" journey -- a classic understatement! Incredibly, he pronounced the trans-provincial line "perfectly practicable"!

Even a "doer" would have been satisfied with the prospect of exclusive 30-year rights to telegraph construction in Newfoundland. But not so. If we could send messages across the country, why not a wire connecting Canada and England? The political and economical impact of such a link would have been invaluable.

A New Fronteer

Gisborne had a certain amount of practicality in his make-up and decided to try a link with New Brunswick and P.E.I. Nobody in North America had experience in underwater-cabling, and in keeping with a long standing Canadian custom, no one would put up the money for such a risky venture. So it was off to New York for the money, and then to England for an educa-

tion in underwater cabling.

His teacher was John W. Brett who, along with his brother, had laid cable from Ireland to Great Britain. They used four separate copper wires, encased in rubber, tarred hemp and wrapped with 10 galvanized wires for strength.

Buying fifteen miles of cable seemed enough to worry about, but this was not the only problem -- it was not as simple as tying one end of cable around a tree and swimming across the Northumberland Strait with the other tied around one's waist! So, he made improvements to the cable coating, and designed a feeding system to play out the heavy cable at the same speed the boat travelled. He also had to devise a way to connect the wires and once ashore, secure the telegraph poles in the ground so that they would not wobble (We have Gisborne to thank for inventing the post-hole digger!). In November 1852, aided by teams of horses and oxen, the last mile of cable was wrestled ashore and, what's more -- it worked!

Encouraged by this experience, Gisborne corresponded with Brett and soon the project was named the Brett and Gisborne Atlantic Telegraph. Brett estimated that 750,000 pounds sterling would do it. "I can get half over here, and if you can raise 375,000 pounds we will be in business".

Unfortunately, Gisborne's ledger was far from balanced. Deeply in debt, he had lost all of his property and it looked like he would go to jail. Not a quitter, he tried to raise money in both England and New York, but to no avail.

A Partnership Was Born

Then, by chance Gisborne met a young engineer named Matthew Field at the Astor Hotel, in New York. Matthew's brother Cyrus, was another visionary. Not only could Field grasp the challenge that lay ahead, but of equal importance he had the money, the credibility and the contacts to make it work.

It turned out though, that Gisborne had not been the first to speculate on a "Trans-Atlantic" cable -- Samuel Morse had done so in the early 40's, and there was more than coincidence in the fact that after meeting Gisborne, Field consulted Morse about the feasibility of the cable. Within 15 minutes, a deal had been

struck between he and Field. They assimilated the financially troubled Gisborne enterprise, accepting debts and the right-of-way.

Gisborne was redeemed, but it eventually became apparent that it was a bitter victory. Morse was named chief electrician, while Gisborne served as chief engineer -- a hollow title. Not on the board of directors, he was assigned to serve under Fields' brother. Consequently, Gisborne resigned the post in 1857.

In spite of a glowing recommendation from the company president, there was no further allusion to Gisborne. Any mention of his contributions were obliterated from the company history, and records went on to report that the idea had instead originated with Fields.

The Continued Dream

That may have been the end of Gisborne and the trans-Atlantic cable, but not the end of Gisborne the dreamer. First, he returned to New Zealand to study the country's geology, and was next found in England as the Nova Scotia Agent for Mines and Minerals. Then, the 1860's saw him at International exhibitions in London and Paris as the province's commissioner.

In the 1870s, Gisborne was back in Nova Scotia building the Glasgow and Cape Breton rail line, a 12 mile narrow gauge railway. Then in 1879, he was superintendent of the Canadian Government Telegraph service, compiling maps of telegraph networks across the country.

When he eventually died nine years later in Ottawa during a trip to the east coast -- his doctor had previously warned him against the trip -- Gisborne merely responded in a manner that was characteristic of the way he had lived his life: "I have a duty to perform and I shall make the effort".

What better epitaph could there be for Gisborne the "Doer"?

