

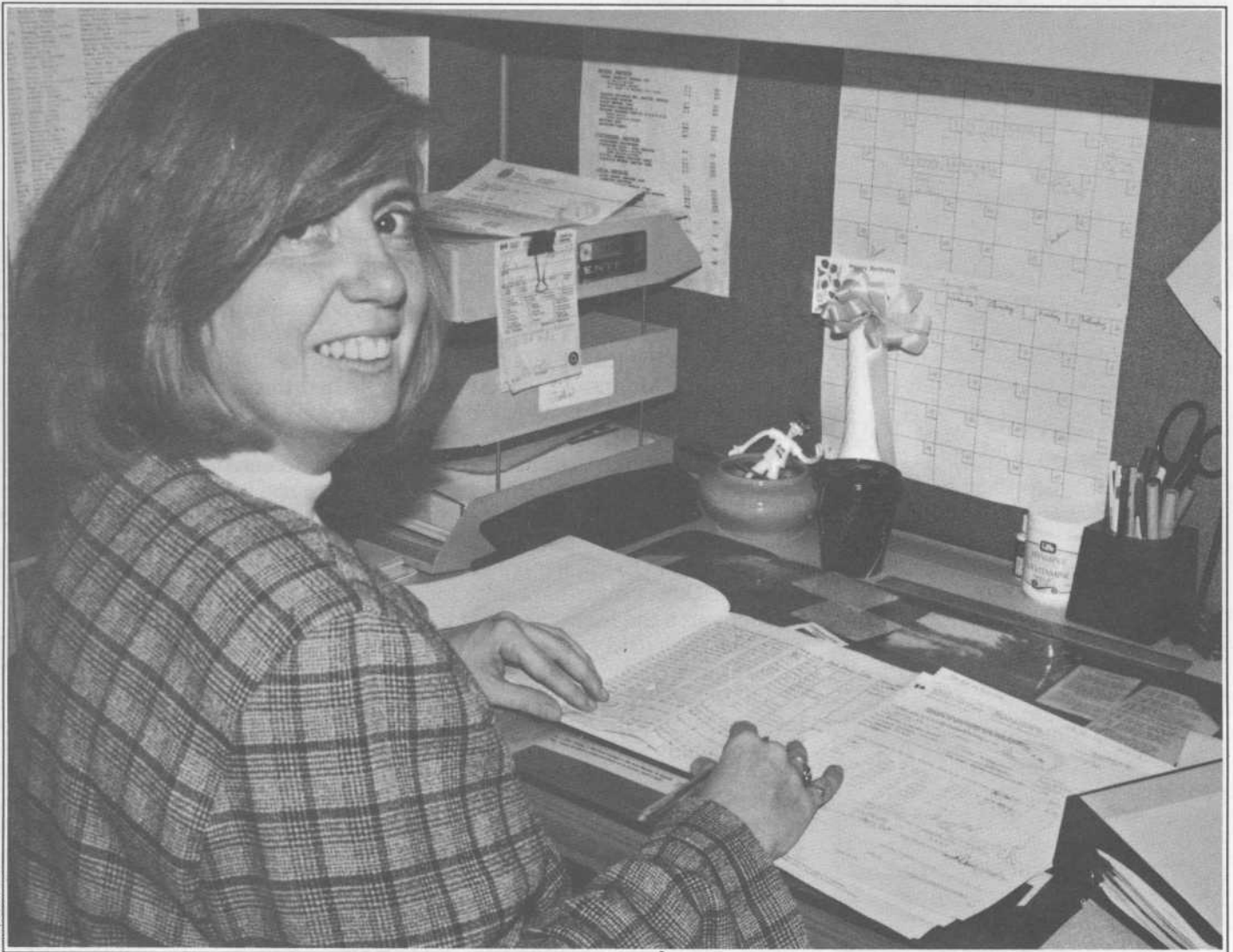
ATLANTIC

# InterComm

VOL. 4

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NO. 1



Monique Cormeau

## ***GCMS: New Challenges for GTA Employees***

by Ian Wilson

Pauline Savoie, District Office Clerk at the Government Telecommunications Agency (GTA) in Moncton, is meeting the challenge of adapting to new working procedures.

With the recent introduction of the long awaited Govern-

ment Consolidation Management System (GCMS), Pauline has also expanded her knowledge of telephone company services and terminology.

*(continued on page 3)*

*24 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 1993:

Paul Soucy	Moncton
Josanne Léger	Moncton
Cathy Rogers	Moncton
Paul Thrasher	Halifax
Linda Harrigan	Saint John
Ghislaine Didham	St. John's
Serge Martin	Moncton
Diane Chapman	Moncton
Paul Roch	Charlottetown

Thank you to Cathy Rodgers and Jim Wade for their assistance in proof-reading this issue.

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#### *Deadlines for future issues:*

- May 10, for June '93 issue.
- September 13 for October '93 issue.

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  
Regional Director,  
Communications & Culture

# DOC Family Tree Grows



*Carmen Comeau-Anderson, Regional Director, Communications and Culture.*

I still remember my arrival at the department in March 1985 when I was introduced to my new responsibilities referred to as "non-spectrum activities". Luckily, I didn't go through an identity crisis! However, it was an obvious challenge to lead the region in these uncharted waters, but not for long. With a small, but dedicated and enthusiastic staff, Communications and Culture (C&C) was created and things started to root.

Our region piloted the idea (wild at the time) of running the Cultural Initiatives Program outside Ottawa... the rest is history, as both this program and the Museum Assistance Program are regionalized, serving cultural clients with a better understanding of their needs and the realities they face.

1989, the year the Canadian Centre for Marine Communications was launched in St. John's, remains a sweet memory. This was a real breakthrough for Atlantic Canada to be at the leading-edge of marine communications technology and research expertise. It was wisely thought (we had an Aristotle in our ranks!) that our best chance of developing our communications sector was to capitalize on our strengths. Other centres have since supported our private sector in the telecommunications area and have stimulated the growth of new limbs on our DOC tree.

Often, sheer hard work and perseverance can bring about achievements wished for on fortune cookies. This has been the case of the four federal-provincial cultural COOPERATION agreements now in existence. A total of \$23 Million has been invested by ACOA and the provincial governments and passed on to DOC to manage jointly with the four Atlantic provincial departments with cultural mandates. Now cultural industries can grow, develop new products, find wider markets and build on their business practices. In Nova Scotia alone, the recent Nova Scotia Arts and Culture Study demonstrated that the cultural sector is a growth area, worth \$164 M annually to the provincial economy. Are you starting to see the leaves appear yet on our tree?

So far, the C & C legacy to the region has been to assist our technology and culture clients get closer to their dreams, to allow them to contribute more to the growth of the region - whether economically, scientifically, culturally or socially, and to reduce the traditional "have not" mentality. As I contemplate one last time on the DOC family tree, C & C has grown to maturity.

All our program branches - Spectrum, GTA and C & C - are now linked at the trunk called the DOC mandate. I am anxious for the fruit to appear as it will no doubt bring a unique hybrid which we can sell to the rest of the country!

*Carmen Comeau-Anderson*

Atlantic InterComm

## Survey Says...

by Paul Soucy

The *Atlantic InterComm* Committee thanks the 45 respondents of its survey enclosed in the last edition. The results were quite impressive and encouraging as 84% felt the newsletter was an important communications tool, and up to 87% read more than half its content.

We found out that staff were more interested in reading about employee profiles (84%) and about specific regional projects and policy activities (80%) as opposed to central agency and other department's policies, or volunteer activities within the region.

Internal communications remain an important function in any organization but particularly so in DOC's Atlantic Region. Our offices are scattered across isolated lands and islands, and this bulletin contributes to ensure a good flow of people-oriented information to our staff. Future technologies will render these efforts redundant but for now, its just fine.

In the coming year, expect more profiles on employees and their interests and hobbies. Pending the necessary funds to print the newsletter, it should continue arriving on your desk thanks to the volunteer efforts of all those who contribute articles.

## 25 Years of Service for Al Daly

Hats off to Al Daly, Atlantic Regional Manager of Authorization, who received a plaque in recognition of 25 years of public service. Marc Rochon, Communications Canada's new deputy minister, made the plaque presentation when he was in Moncton on November 26 at an all staff meeting.



On the left, Al Daly receives his 25 years of service plaque from Deputy Minister, Marc Rochon.

# New legislation for the Public Service of Canada

Bill C-26, aimed at renewing the Public Service of Canada, received Royal Assent, on December 17, 1992. It happened three years after it was introduced and following numerous attempts. The Government of Canada now has overhauled public service legislation.

In the context of the Public Service 2000 initiative, the Act contains various amendments to the earlier legisla-

tion. Many are designed to improve service to the public by streamlining internal administration such as:

- quick deployment of employees (with their consent);
- rapid recruitment of employees for very short term requirements;
- simplification of processes by which employees are released;
- steps to remove red tape from staffing;

Other provisions are designed to in-

crease fairness of treatment of employees such as:

- major new provisions on employment equity;
- an end to probation on appointments other than initial entry to the Public Service;
- union membership for those term employees appointed for more than three months (rather than six months as before).

Some new provisions dealing with management services should improve day-to-day management, such as:

- clearer authority for the Government to contract out;
- net proceeds from sale of surplus crown assets being credited to departments.

It is expected that some elements of the new act should be in effect as early as April 1, 1993.

For more information, please contact Eugène Aucoin, Regional Director of Personnel, at (506) 851-6550, or Serge Gaudet, Regional Director of Management Services, at (506) 851-6510.

### New Challenges... (continued from page 1)

*The GCMS system is now up and running with Moncton being the first site to be installed. It will create major changes in the work activities of GTA staff.*

*Pauline Savoie is among the first employees in the country to experience these changes which, by the way, she has managed extremely well.*

*GCMS will provide a greater level of financial and management control over government telephone services. It is a fully automated integrated management system which will be used to submit work orders for telephone services and to maintain inventories of telephone equipment and features.*

*It will also provide a variety of management reports and enable reconciliation of supplier inventory items and billing information, resulting in more accurate invoices. Savings in government costs are expected to range between \$5M and \$7M annually with GCMS.*



# New Faces in the Atlantic Region



Paul Thrasher

**Jim Thiessen** joined the Halifax District Office crew on November 30. He is the new Supervisor of Authorization. Welcome to the Atlantic Region, Jim!

We are privileged to have with us **Sheila Strickland** as an Administrative Services Clerk in the St. John's District Office since October and until the end of March 1993. She had previously joined us for a three-month term in January 1992. Born in Toronto, Sheila attended elementary school in Nova Scotia and completed her schooling in Newfoundland. In 1989 she attended the Cabot Institute of Applied Arts & Technology in St. John's where she earned a diploma in Computer Applications Operations. She gained experience with Revenue Canada - Taxation and TAS Communications.

Sheila has many interests and hobbies, one of which is sportscard collecting. Hard work seems to come naturally to Sheila and we are certainly fortunate to have found her.



Sheila Strickland



Linda Goguen

**Linda Goguen** has joined the Saint John District Office team as Administrative Services Clerk on September 8. She will be with us until the end of March 1993.

**Linda Sherwood** joined the Regional Office Administration team on January 25, 1993, as a Reception Clerk. She should be with us until the end of March. Living in Dieppe, Linda is a dedicated mother; she also has work experience with various employers, namely, the Canadian Forces Base in Moncton and the City of Moncton.

**Pauline Noël** joined the staff at the Regional Office on November 2 as Word Processing Operator for the Communications and Culture sector. Previously, she was secretary/receptionist for a non-profit organization.



Linda Sherwood



Pauline Noël

**Roger Thompson** joined the Saint John District Office on October 12 as an Inspector-in-training. He has successfully completed two courses in Electronics Engineering Technology, the latest specializing in Data Communications. Previously he worked as an industrial computer consultant.



Roger Thompson



David Gates

**David Gates** joined the Saint John District Office on October 12 as an Inspector-in-training. He is originally from Charlottetown and has worked in private industry for a number of years prior to joining DOC.

**Heather LeBlanc** who is currently attending the University of New Brunswick, in her second year of Computer Sciences, has joined the Moncton Regional Office as a Co-op student for a four month term. Heather is gathering and entering statistics into a client database to establish the strengths and weaknesses of the Atlantic provinces in the field of technology.



Heather LeBlanc

**Darcie Brun** joined the GTA District for N.B. and P.E.I. in early November. She is working on amending and updating the Federal listings in the various directories. She will be with us until the end of March 1993.



Darcie Brun

**Andre D.J. Mazerolle** is a student currently working for the Department of Communications in Halifax on the Canada/Nova Scotia COOPERATION Agreement on Cultural Development under the supervision of Paul Soucy and Peggy Walt. He is enrolled in the Bachelor of Public Relations degree with the Co-operative Education option at Mount Saint Vincent University and plans to graduate in the fall of 1994. He has previously completed a degree in Community Studies at the University College of Cape Breton and also studied for one year at Dalhousie University. He hopes to pursue a career in either employee communications or health care public relations.



# Finding Direction Finders

by Maurice Thériault

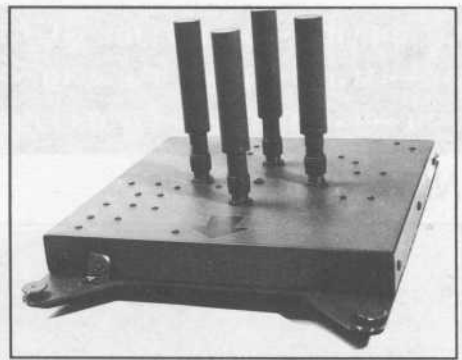
Locating stations on the airwaves is one of the responsibilities of the Spectrum Control sector. These operating stations may be deliberately or accidentally causing interference to other services. Years ago, the only tools we had to locate these stations were field intensity

range from 110 to 170 MHz. Each district office had its own unit.

In the early 1990s, more and more stations were authorized to operate in the UHF band and the Taiyo unit could not locate new stations. Many were located in a frequency range above 170 MHz. The chase was on to find a suitable unit to cover the new frequency range.

Our region spent some time corresponding with company representatives trying to locate a suitable unit with an acceptable price tag. The other regions across Canada had similar needs so a departmental group of representatives from Ottawa and each region was formed. Its mandate was to select and purchase units for the Department nationwide.

A few companies submitted equipment proposals. September of 1992, all members of the newly formed group met in Vancouver where sample equipment was field tested. The Atlantic Region had previously field tested a port-



OAR direction finder mobil antenna, model MA1310, part of the new system which each Atlantic Region District Office will soon acquire. (Photo courtesy of Jerome & Francis Co. Ltd., North Vancouver)

able Taiyo unit. These tests demonstrated the unit performed well however bearing accuracy and receiver sensitivity were a bit less than expected.

In Vancouver, we decided that all regions should buy the same type of unit since buying in bulk would give us a much better unit price.

The OAR model 3001, proposed by Jerome and Francis Co. Ltd of Vancouver, was selected. The unit performed very well in the field tests and the price was right. It can locate stations in a frequency range of 0.5 to 1300 MHz.

Delivery of the systems has started and, so far, the Atlantic region has one of the six direction finder processors. We have also already obtained six ICOM R7100 receivers that are needed for the direction finders set-up.

One complete system is now in operation in the Halifax District Office. Four more complete units for the regional office and other district offices will be delivered shortly.



Don Paskevich

DOC Employees from all regions of Canada are field testing direction finders in the Vancouver area, during Fall '92. From left to right: Normand Tricteg(DASM) - Ottawa, Fernando Gutierrez(RQIS) - Montreal, Dan LeMoine(RCRC) - Winnipeg, Ron Gloux(DDLML) - Vancouver, Paul Vaccani(DASM) - Ottawa, Maurice Thériault(RARC) - Moncton, et Dave Slingerland(Acton).

meters and a dipole antennae.

The process was cumbersome and results were not very accurate. Consequently, our region bought its first series of direction finders from Taiyo Musen Co. Ltd in the early 1980s. They performed well, covering a frequency

## Earl Hoeg: new job in Ottawa

by Robert Simpson

Earl Hoeg has won a competition and accepted a position with DOST-1 in Ottawa - that's Directorate of Spectrum Management Operations, Terrestrial Services, International Systems (no wonder they use abbreviations).

Earl has worked for three years at the Halifax District Office. Starting at the EL-01 level in October 1989. He progressed through the Radio Inspector training program and remained at the EL-4 level only briefly before the big lights of Ottawa caught his eye.

We will remember Earl as very personable, intelligent and hard working. Perhaps the thing we will remember the most are all those entertaining stories of his adventures as a bachelor (although we really only believe half of them).

We know Earl will do a good job in Ottawa but we wish him the best of luck. On the photo, Earl (left) accepts his farewell present from Henry Klain, Supervisor of Authorization, at an employee gathering, in Halifax.



Paul Thrasher







# Christmas 92 at the Regional Office

The Atlantic Regional Office Staff Benefit Fund Committee was hard at work again organizing a variety of activities during the period before Christmas. Over and above making sure that a committee was in place to organize and run the Children's Christmas Party, the SBFC also organized a "Christmas Supper in the Country" at Chez P epin's in Notre Dame, a Christmas Gift Exchange and Office Party, and a Christmas Eve Pot Luck Lunch. Hats off to Eileen Rafuse, Social Director, and the rest of the Committee for making Christmas 1992 one to remember!



Serge Martin

Acclaimed cooks, Jim and Melody Wade, enjoyed this year's Christmas supper, away from their woks and pans.



Diane Chapman

Serge Gaudet finally receives a well-deserved toupet; it does amuse Micheline St-Germain.

## Why December 25?

by Michele Savoie

It has long been a matter of curiosity to me why December 25th was celebrated as Christ's birthday. I always wondered how they got it so exact.

Well, it turns out that the date actually came from another religion - Mithraism. Mithra was a god worshipped by the Romans as well as others during the Second and Third Century A.D. and was one of the chief rivals to Christianity. Devotees of Mithras believed that the forces of good and evil - represented by light and darkness respectively, were constantly in conflict. Mithraists honoured the winter solstice on December 25th because they believed it was the turning point in the sun's battle against darkness - good against evil.

In time, Mithraism died out and the Christians adopted that date for Christ's birthday.

Special thanks also goes to Brenda Cormier and her committee for the beautiful decorations that put employees of the Atlantic Regional Office in the Christmas spirit.

## Kiddies' Christmas

by Josanne L ger

Another success! The Regional Office Children's Christmas party was held Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> in the GTA boardroom. The Christmas tree was decorated by the children as they arrived, with decorations made by themselves. We sang songs with the help of Paul Mazerolle, followed by a very delightful puppet show presented by Emily, Charlene and Sandra Snowdon (Dale Snowdon's three youngest daughters). Then everyone's attention was captured by "Rondo the Magician" followed by the grand entrance of Santa & Mrs. Claus with a great ending of food consumption. Thanks go to Roland Richard, Shelly Furze and Marthe Saulnier for a job well done.



Josanne L ger

Santa & Mrs. Claus are arriving.



Josanne L ger

A puppet show keeps everyone's attention.



# Changing the Paradigm - The Customer Perspective

by René Guerrette

Traditionally the focus on customer satisfaction was either loosely considered as a priority or was somewhat predetermined by the degree of effectiveness and awareness of the management rank. The level of customer satisfaction was often not surveyed and was left to reflect impressions on the part of individuals as to how well we were doing based on their familiarity of the environment as well as the seriousness of customer complaints.

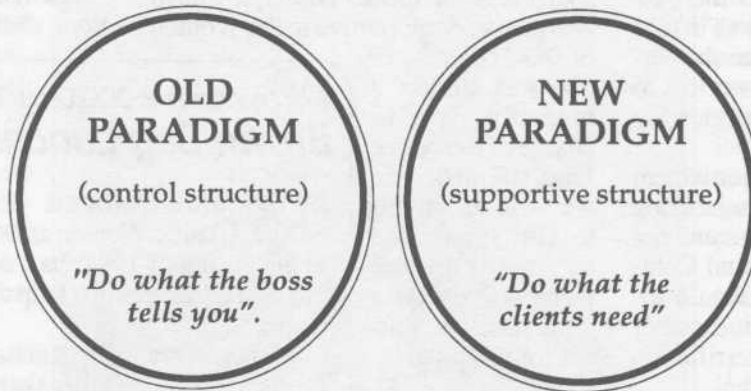
In business today the environment and the market changes so radically and rapidly that products and services which successfully met customer needs and expectations only a few years ago, if not months ago, are no longer adequate. Through it's workforce, "powerful proactive leadership must constantly monitor the environmental changes, particularly customer habits and motives, and provide the force necessary to organize resources in the right direction". (Steven R. Covey, Seven Habits Of Effective People)

This is what "Changing the Paradigm" is all about. It means focusing the goal of any service oriented industry on customer satisfaction and all lining up behind that focus. This will create the demand and dependency that almost by itself assures the viability of any undertaking. From this focus, and the solid commitment to quality in the products and services we deliver, flows benefits such as personal satisfaction, pride and on a more practical note, job secu-

arity we all strive for.

The Government of Canada through PS2000 and the "Prosperity" initiative recognizes the need for this shift in "paradigm" and is attempting through numerous methods to change the face of the "Public Sector" to reflect this. Although the flavour of customer service is somewhat different in our environment when compared to private industry, the perspective of client satisfaction, whether internal or external to the Department as a primary objective and purpose, should always remain the focus of our daily attention.

By now some of you are probably asking yourselves "What is this para-



digm?" to begin with. Simply put, it is a model, a theory or a perception of how things are. It comes from the Greeks but paradigms are part of our daily lives whether we call them that or whether we even realize their existence. You'll know when a shift in paradigm occurs in your lives, they're things that make you go "Ah!...". From that point, your whole outlook on the topic or issue changes.



René Guerrette, Operations Manager, GTA - Moncton.

Helping achieve this change in paradigm are the efforts of individuals attempting to act as catalyst by the use of their personal leadership, skills and influence. This can be seen in their daily activities as they effect positive changes. I'm not necessarily referring to the management rank and/or functions as this

aspect is really only a secondary outcome of leadership. I'm talking about the way we as individuals can help create tiny shifts in the existing paradigm by being "response-able" and influencing positively "what we can" while not wasting our energy on "what we can't". You can be one of those people effecting change.

People who practice this proactive approach will see their sphere of influence grow while their concerns wither away. This not only applies at work but also in our lives. If you feel the problem is "out there", stop yourself. That thought is part of the problem.

Changing the existing paradigm towards customer satisfaction is a major undertaking. The corporate culture and what it carries in terms of personal attitudes and mind sets have traditionally focused on "command and control" rather than "leadership and support".

As individuals we can demonstrate our leadership in changing the paradigm by "doing the right things" and then further hone our management skills by "doing things right" while maintaining our focus on customer satisfaction. This is where it all begins...with you.

## United Way Campaign Results

by Monique Comeau

The 1992 United Way Campaign was a success, the Atlantic region coming up with a total of \$ 6,100.

This year's campaign coordinators were; **Marthe Saulnier** in Moncton, **Bernice Sears** in Saint John and **Keith**

**Dares** in Halifax. They wish to thank all those who contributed. Here is a breakdown of donations:

<b>Regional Office:</b>	<b>\$ 3,964</b>
<b>Saint John District Office:</b>	<b>820</b>
<b>Halifax District Office:</b>	<b>1,316</b>

# Farewell to a Friend and Co-worker

by Shelly Furze

The Moncton Regional Office bid farewell to **Eileen Rafuse**, Administrative Support Clerk, on January 15, 1993, as she will be relocating to Fredericton with her husband and children who are now residing there.

In 1987 Eileen came to DOC as Records Receptionist. She performed mail room services for the regional office. She also worked as Engineering Support Clerk, providing general clerical support to the Regional Director of Engineering and staff. She later went to GTA as acting District Office Clerk (N.B. & P.E.I.) providing support for all services in GTA. Eileen then returned to the Administration/Finance section as support clerk where she performed a variety of support services to the Regional Office and districts, a job well done.

Eileen was a very active participant in many committees at DOC organizing and planning (parties of course and not her own). As Staff Benefit Fund Committee Social Director she would always find a way for us to get together and have a party. She did a terrific job



*Eileen Rafuse (second from the left) acknowledges greetings and the farewell gift offered by Serge Gaudet (immediately to the right), regional director of Administration. We also recognize other colleagues: (from left to right) Marthe Saulnier, George Richard, Eileen & Serge, Denise Mazerolle, Alonzo Boucher, Paul LeBlanc and Eugène Aucoin.*

organizing the annual Christmas party and golf tournament, along with the social teas for special holidays. Eileen was also very supportive in the Women of DOC committee.

She was kind of a motherly type. In charge of the coffee fund, she made sure we were all on our toes in the mornings by making sure there was always a good supply of coffee for us and mak-

ing sure we paid our dues. Again, a job well done.

A small gathering was held at Cheer's along with an office party in her honour.



Linda Harrigan

## Au Revoir Wallie!

The Saint John District Office had a farewell luncheon for **Wallie Burke** on September 22 at Keystone Kelly's. **Clinton Landry**, District Director, presented Wallie with a gift and wished him success in all his new adventures. Wallie had been with the Saint John Office for a year and a half. He left the department to pursue his goals in the music industry. (Center: Michele Belliveau)

Atlantic Women at DOC Committee

## Brown Bag Luncheons Planned

by Monique Comeau

The Atlantic Women at DOC Committee was formed in the Spring of 1992. Its mandate is to advise management on initiatives that help women overcome barriers in the workplace.

Members include: **Rachel Léger** - chair, **Josanne Léger**, **Ginette Chiasson-Baldwin**, **Leslee Ann Patriquin**, **Mary Clare Butler**, **Bernice Sears**, **Alonzo Boucher**, **Cathy Rogers** and **Keith Anderson**.

To fulfil its mandate, Atlantic Women at DOC has established an action plan consisting of, among other things, a series of Brown Bag Luncheons.

These informal lunchtime gatherings will give employees the opportunity to learn more about and discuss the current issues facing women in the workplace, in social situations and at home.

The first Brown Bag Luncheon, which will focus on feminism, is set for March 8, International Women's Day. **Ginette Chiasson-Baldwin** will be guest speaker.

With the continued support and interest of DOC employees, the luncheons are scheduled to take place on a bimonthly basis. Whenever possible, employees from the District Offices and Sub-Offices are welcome to participate via teleconference. When not possible, District Offices are invited to organize their own Brown Bag Luncheons.

If there are suggestions for formats of discussion (guest speaker, video, role-playing) or topics, please advise **Keith Anderson** in Moncton.



# Dreamers and Doers

by Gordon Pole



## Joseph Henry, the Dreamer

Edison learned the important principle that there is no use inventing a machine nobody wants. Since then the "doers" have produced an endless flow of technology, and most of it has been useful. We tend to forget the other experimenters who investigated new phenomena for the joy of discovery and then shared it with the world. These were not practical men in search of wealth but "dreamers" who laid the foundation for others to build upon.

The names of Faraday and Henry are kept alive in the obscure electrical terms of resistance and inductance. There is no "Henry Telegraph" or "Faraday Electric" company, yet without these men - an endless string of "doers" like Samuel Morse would have remained an artist, and Alexander Graham Bell, a teacher of the deaf.

Joseph Henry was born in 1797, in Albany N.Y. He started out studying medicine, but was sidetracked by an interest in mathematics and engineering. Eventually he was to become a professor and lecturer on the subject. He was interested in magnetism, and improved upon European discoveries in electromagnets, eventually producing one that would lift a ton. His wife, though, was not too happy about this. He tore her petticoat into strips, wrapping the cloth around alternate layers of wire to prevent short circuiting.

In the early 1840's, he was demonstrating the magnetic force to his students by connecting a battery to an electromagnet located a mile away. This was in turn wired to a coil in the classroom with a clapper attached in a way so that it could move freely. When the magnet was activated it caused the class-

room coil to move the clapper and ring a bell. This demonstrated that it was possible to activate a magnet from some distant point. The question as to whether there was a difference between the ringing of a bell or sounding dots and dashes was to become part of a bitter dispute between Morse and Henry.

As it was, the "dreamer" Henry felt

wrought". A good example of the difference between the dreamer and the doer.

Unfortunately Henry did not make any money, while Morse received not only the financial reward but also the credit. He never acknowledged Henry's contribution, avoiding any reference to the professor.

Professor Henry was of course hurt by Morse's actions, but it did not stop him from dreaming. He had noted, for example, "that iron bars, when magnetized by means of an electric current, become slightly elongated." In keeping with his philosophy, this earth-shattering discovery was added to the general fund of knowledge. This principle was another important stone upon which the foundation of telecommunications was being built.

At 78, he was still a sounding board for would-be inventors. In early March of 1875, a tall black-haired man with a thick Scottish accent presented himself to professor Henry. The 28-year-old was uncertain as to what he should do with his discoveries. He showed an apparatus to the old professor and outlined his theory about the transmission of human voice. What should he do? Should he publish his findings and let others work it out, or attempt to solve the problem himself? The young Scot admitted that he did not have the electrical knowledge necessary to further his experiments. Professor Henry looked at him through tired eyes and said simply "get it!"

And get it he did. In a letter to his parents in Ontario dated May 24th, 1875 he wrote that every moment of his time

*(continued on page 12)*



Joseph Henry, 1797 - 1878 (Photography courtesy of the Smithsonian Institute).

that discoveries were the "property of all mankind" and did not bother to patent the idea. He was to demonstrate this to Samuel Morse and advise him on the electrical theory. In 1844, on the 24th of May, Samuel Morse transmitted his famous first message "What hath God



# Pleasantville (Pepperrell), Newfoundland

by Ghislaine Didham

The District Office of the Department of Communications is housed in Building 302, Pleasantville, St. John's, Newfoundland. Perhaps many of us do not realize how historic and exciting our lodgings are.

These buildings were originally built as offices and accommodations for the United States servicemen and their families. This was the Newfoundland Base Command for U.S. Military Installations and a strategic point of defense for the Western Hemisphere in the 1940s.

Located close to beautiful Quidi Vidi Lake, protected from wind and weather by the White Hills and forming a part of the city of St. John's, Pleasantville (Pepperrell) existed even before Newfoundland joined Canada.

The Anglo-American Agreement was finalized early in 1940, in which England would lease land in Newfoundland and Labrador to the United States for a period of 99 years in return for warships supplied to England in aid of its war against Germany. The American Bases Act was implemented on June 11, 1941 and allowed the expansion of base facilities to include any part of New-

foundland and Labrador in support of North American defense.

Initial construction began in 1940 with Fort Pepperrell (named after Sir William Pepperrell, 1696-1759), in St.

John's as the U.S. Military Headquarters, the Newfoundland Base Command. Other sites followed: Argentia Naval Base, Ernest Harmon Air Force Base at Stephenville, McAndrew Air Force Base in Placentia, Gander Air Base and Goose Bay Air Base in Labrador. In January, 1941 the SS Edmund B. Alexander arrived in St. John's with 1200 American army troopers aboard. From 1941 to 1961 over 100,000 U.S. military personnel were at one time or another stationed at these bases and in over 35 other strategic locations throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 1947, the U.S. Air Force took over command of all facilities, with its mission being primarily defence. Pepperrell began its conversion to the USAF facility. The year 1950 saw Pepperrell expand into the area known as White Hills, during the Korean War alert. Facilities constructed

and still here today were a 40-bed hospital, school, gymnasium, library, and apartment buildings.

Deactivation began in 1957 and by 1961 most air bases and other USAF locations were redundant. August 11, 1961 the Pepperrell base was officially closed and in 1962 all facilities were turned over to both Federal and Provincial governments.

In 1963 Pepperrell was renamed "Pleasantville". By 1975, 50% of all buildings and facilities were occupied by the provincial government, 20% by private enterprise and 30% by the federal government. Some of the federal government departments presently situated here are Health and Welfare Canada, Supply and Services Canada, Parks Canada, Environment Canada, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, National Defence, Transport Canada - Canadian Coast Guard, Forestry Canada, Correctional Services Canada, Public Works Canada, Immigration Canada and of course, Communications Canada.



Building 302 in Pleasantville, where DOC offices are located in St. John's, Nfld. (Photography: Gordon Garland)

Gordon Garland



Serge Martin

## Kudos to Paul LeBlanc

Kudos to **Paul LeBlanc**, part-time Government Consolidated Management Service (GCMS) Project Officer in Moncton, who recently received a Manpower Stand-Out Stand-In Award from Carolyn Tahersal of Manpower Temporary Services. Recipients of this award must have worked a minimum of 400 hours as a Manpower office temporary and have received excellent performance evaluations from employers.

## Joseph Henry... (continued from page 11)

was devoted to the study of electricity. On March 7, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell filed his famous patent for the "electrical speaking telephone".

So what is success? Is it measured in terms of dollars or in terms of the mark one leaves behind? Henry had great influence on the advancement of electrical science. It was his design that produced the first practical electric motor. It was also Henry who fathered the system of gathering weather reports from across the country using Morse's telegraph. In 1846, Joseph Henry became the first secretary of the Smithsonian Institute. When he died, it was a day of public mourning. It was after his death that the unit of measuring self-inductance was named after him.

But sadly, when I called the Smithsonian to ask for a glossy photo of Joseph Henry we might use for this article, the person on the other end asked, "and what did he do?"