

### Upcoming Events

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

#### Tanquary Fiord – Revisited by Victor Jones

Operation Tanquary was initiated by Dr. Geoffrey Hattersley-Smith, evolving from his initial exploration and mapping of the northern islands of Canada in the early 1950s. Activity formally commenced with the delivery of the materials for a base camp at Tanquary Fiord on Ellesmere Island in August 1962 by the *CCGS John A. Macdonald*. Hattersley-Smith gathered experienced Arctic personnel including Harold Serson and John Keys to lead the annual “Operation Tanquary” and encouraged university research in the High Arctic across a range of disciplines, based from the Tanquary Camp.

In concert with the scientific research and logistical program, summer students were brought on to assist. Numerous papers and publications emerged from the 12-year program. The camp was turned over to the Polar Continental Shelf Project after the 1974 season, and eventually became included in the 38,000 km<sup>2</sup> area at the top of Ellesmere Island designated as Quttinirpaaq National Park.



*Tanquary Fiord, photo courtesy Vic Jones*

Please join us to hear Victor relate his experiences from the active days of Operation Tanquary, and its multi-year science programs, and view images from both that period and what is now our scenic, most northerly, National Park.

All events are in the **Private Dining Room**, Bldg. 4 at 1300 hrs unless otherwise noted.

Renovations to the CRC Auditorium are not expected to be completed before April 2015.

Friends and spouses, Shirleys Bay staff are all welcome. Please see updated security requirements on page 4.

Please join the Friends for lunch before the presentation in the Shirleys Bay Cafeteria, Bldg. 4.

## Upcoming Events, continued

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

TV Broadcasting at CRC: From Telidon to 3D-TV, Part 2, by Bernard Caron

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 (tentative)

Spring Luncheon at Bistro 54 in Stittsville. Details to follow

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Radio Communications at the Diefenbunker during the Cold War, by Ralph Cameron

Annual General Meeting

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Field Trip to the [National Geomagnetic Lab](#). Details to follow.

---

## From the Archives...



Construction of Bldg. 34 at Shirleys Bay in 1974, CRC Image 74-29767

## Billowes' Rant

### Technical Errors

I read a lot of technical magazines and watch a lot of technical documentaries and I am appalled at the large number of stupid technical errors which I see. Many of these errors should be noticed by someone with no more than high school science qualifications, so why are they so common?

One of the very common ones which really annoys me is the misuse of the term 'superheated'. As you will all know, the term is applied to a gas which is above the boiling point of the mother liquid at that temperature and pressure.



Colin Billowes

When the Shuttle Colombia disintegrated over Texas in 2003, it was widely reported that "superheated" air had enter the wing and destroyed its integrity. This was technically quite true as all air is superheated even at minus 50 C, but they did not mean to say that at all. What they were trying to say was that the air became very hot as it was compressed into the wing. The term "superheated" is often wrongly used for "very hot" even in technical papers by people who should know better.

I took the trouble to track down the source of this error and to my surprise, it was in the original NASA news release. Emails to NASA bringing this to their attention were ignored.

Many of the errors are simply inexcusable. You have all seen things like "a power of xx volts", or "a voltage of xx amps". I pointed out such error to one production company I was able to contact, and suggested that if they had shown the script to the camera-person, the error would probably have been picked up.

One of the more insidious errors is rather an attempt to distort the truth. The solar and wind energy fraternity, not one of them with an iota of economic savvy, usually describe their systems in terms of the number of homes the system can support. Without exception, they always use the peak output divided by the average household consumption, never making any allowance for night-time (solar) or calm weather (wind). This results in the number of homes typically being overstated, usually by more than four times. Then I have seen them cheat even further by assuming that the average home only uses 1kW/hr at peak usage. I urge you all to protest such distortions.

There is another villain in this story. This is the TV program series called ["How It Is Made"](#) which has run for years both in Canada and the US. It is an interesting program except that their programs are littered with technical errors. I even wrote to them once and offered to proofread their scripts for technical accuracy for FREE – without reply naturally.

I'm not going to even go into bad grammar which I have discussed before. Simply to say I'm so sick of hearing "very unique" and the fact that we seem to have reduced the language to two adjectives - "cool" and "awesome".

Having a bit of a Don Quixotic streak, I sometimes try to find the people responsible for the production but that's where I almost always hit a roadblock. They take great pains to avoid publishing their contact information and for the most part, it is impossible to locate them.

Anyway, the point of all this is that it is not acceptable that so many errors take place by what we think of as a well-educated population. I am planning to form a company called "Lucid Lingo" which will offer proof reading services both for technical and linguistic correctness – anyone want a job?

[Colin welcomes your comments!](#)

## Obituaries

### Isidore Carroll 1933-2015

Many of our older members will remember the days when CRC had its own vehicle fleet for official use by any staff member. Isidore and his group looked after that motor pool for many years. He was noted for his unflappable demeanour and constant good humour. [Obituary...](#)



*Above left: CRC Image 74-30396; Isidore Carroll, second from left; above right: CRC Image 91-4467; left to right: Isidore Carroll, Gary Smith, Tippie Williams, Marilyn Matte (in cab), Adrian Carroll and Joe Guertin.*

On one occasion, when I needed a vehicle to get downtown to Communications Canada HQ, there were no cars available. Isidore rose to the occasion, and I drove there in style in one of our large dump trucks! There were some strange looks when I left the vehicle in front of 300 Slater Street, carrying my camera and wearing a suit and tie!

### Pam Chaulk 1934 - 2014

Pam was a cheerful and efficient member of what was VPSAT in the 1990's. She had a savvy combination of both people and organizational skills that she brought to her work at CRC. [Obituary...](#)

### Max Yalden 1930 - 2015

Max was Deputy Minister of Communications from 1973 to 1977, and visited CRC on several occasions during his tenure. [Obituary...](#)

### Visitor Security and Access Update

Family members are no longer given site access to scheduled Friends' events by simply accompanying their Friends' Member.

As with all other one-time Canadian citizen visitors, their name(s) must appear on a **Visitor Clearance Request for Domestic Visitors** form. These must be completed and submitted to Shirleys Bay security in advance. Please contact our [Badge and Access Coordinator Andre Kennedy](#) for details and action.



## Correspondence

Peter Townsend, former Operations Manager of the David Florida Laboratory (DFL), writes to us with the following:

"The following is a link to an audio/video of the countdown of the launch of the CTS spacecraft in 1976, which I made for my 9 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren about a year ago. I apologize for blowing my own trumpet, but I am very proud of my many years in space technology, and wanted my nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren to know about my very interesting career.

"The sound quality is poor because of re-recording and it does contain a couple of errors, in particular, to my claim to have been Operations Manager of the DFL for over 100 years!

"However, I thought you might be interested in having a copy for your archives and possibly to provide the Dropbox link for Friends of CRC who may be interested.

"I am now close to my 86<sup>th</sup> birthday and Angela and I still manage to spend our winters in Florida. I am still an active wood carver, (mostly) birds and have participated in several art shows in Florida over the last few years, still have three active family genealogy websites, and garden here and back home in summer and winter."

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/7x4kfy4p4qehyl/CTS%20COUNTDOWN.wlmp-2.wmv?dl=0>

---

From new member [Brian Jeffrey](#), a request for research assistance:

"I wonder if some of the members of Friends of CRC might be able to help solve the mystery what happened to Canada's first commercial digital computer?

"The computer was last seen at the National Research Council's Structure's Laboratory (M-14) in the mid 1960's. It seems that it was destined for one of the museums but it has vanished. It may be possible that some of the members of this group may have worked on the computer or may know what happened to it.

"You can learn more about the mystery at [www.FERUT.ca](http://www.FERUT.ca). Someone, somewhere, (must) know what happened to FERUT and my challenge is to find that someone. Perhaps you can help."

---

Andrew King from the Ottawa Citizen wrote a recent interesting article on Ernie Brown and his work on code-breaking during the second world war. [Read the article and view the associated video...](#)

[The Friends' Newsletter of September 2014](#) had an article about Ernie Brown in 2014 after his receipt of the Bletchley Park Commemorative Badge.

## Message From The Chair

I'm pleased to note that we have a number of events scheduled for our members leading through the spring of 2015 as detailed on the first two pages of this newsletter.

As always, we welcome suggestions from our members regarding topics for talks, or possible venues for field trips.

We try to accommodate all our member interests, but with special attention to Shirleys Bay history.

Wearing one of my other hats as Webmaster, the update to the Friends' Website is progressing, albeit a little more slowly than I'd like! Too little time! I extend an invitation to any of our members to submit articles or reminiscences for either the website, or for the newsletter. If you have your own photographs, films or legacy videotapes, I'd be happy to digitize them to our collection. I mentioned at our Christmas lunch that I'd like to see more biographies that could be included alongside website contributions from living Friends. So far, I have only my own! These could be 300-1000 words in length... and of course, will be used in your inevitable obituary!

Please [contact me directly](#) to make arrangements.

This month, I visited the [RCAF Museum in Trenton](#), and have [updated our website photographs of the Velvet Glove Missile and Microwave Fuze](#). Velvet Glove was an air-to-air missile developed for the CF105 Avro Arrow (1954-1958), the [microwave fuze was developed at DRTE](#).

If there is anyone who might appreciate our monthly newsletters... please let us know! Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Shirleys Bay and Canadian telecommunications history, and joining our mailing-list is as simple as [sending us an email!](#)

John Brebner, Chair etc.

---

## Contact us...

Chair, Archivist, Newsletter:	John Brebner	<a href="mailto:john.brebner@brebner.com">john.brebner@brebner.com</a>	613-731-6220
Secretary:	Neville Reed	<a href="mailto:nev_reed@yahoo.ca">nev_reed@yahoo.ca</a>	613-596-1434
Membership:	Seymour Shlien	<a href="mailto:sshlien@crc.ca">sshlien@crc.ca</a>	613-722-1296
Badges and Access:	Andre Kennedy	<a href="mailto:aek@storm.ca">aek@storm.ca</a>	613-829-9697

Website: [friendsofrcrc.ca](http://friendsofrcrc.ca) email: [info@friendsofrcrc.ca](mailto:info@friendsofrcrc.ca) Phone: 613-990-6673

Face book Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CRCFriends?ref=stream>

Mailing Address: Friends of CRC, 3701 Carling Avenue, P.O. Box 11490, Stn. H, Ottawa, ON K2H 8S2

---