

Upcoming Events

January 30th, 2014 **Mission: Healthy Bones by Ann Nowak, RN , City of Ottawa Public Health Department**

With the recent controversy about the benefits of vitamin supplements, this timely presentation will discuss the value of calcium and vitamin D, nutrients important to all, and not just those with osteoporosis. Learn practical information to help improve your food choices in relation to calcium and vitamin D.

February 27th, 2014 **What Happened at Roswell, New Mexico in July 1947? by Hugh Reekie**

March 27th, 2014 **Canoeing and Hiking in Wild Canada (details to follow)**

(All events in the CRC Auditorium at 1300 hrs unless otherwise noted. Friends and spouses, Shirleys Bay staff all welcome.)

Message from the Chair

I trust that everyone had a happy holiday over Christmas and New Year. I'm very envious of those of you who have fled these northern climes for warmer parts!

In this issue, we have initiated an occasional feature - "Where Are They Now?". Suggested by Don MacMillan, his article is the first in what we hope to be an ongoing series. Don't be shy... tell us a little bit about your life and/or career after departing from Shirleys Bay. There are a lot of stories about former employees that would be of interest to our members.

On a similar note, the response to participation in the Andrew Huddleston video has been less than encouraging. I know there are quite a few of you who indicated an interest in being interviewed. You don't have to be a retired employee to talk about DRTE/CRC projects from the past. Sessions will take place at a mutually acceptable location.

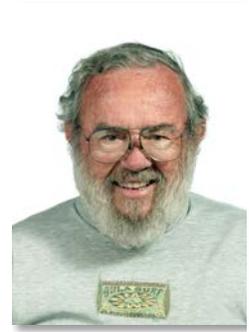
Please contact me soon so that we can start work on this important retrospective project.

[John Brebner](#)

Now For Something Different, by Colin Billowes

Background Music

Now we have largely got rid of tobacco smoke from our environment, I would like to nominate the abolition of background music as the next target for environmental clean-up. No matter where you go these days, you are almost certainly going to be loudly assailed by some moronic caterwauling person, usually accompanied by a guitar, whose lyrics are unintelligible and boringly repetitive.



It is bad enough that it is almost impossible to go to a restaurant these days without having to listen to this noise. Even worse is the use of dialogue-drowning background music accompanying almost every documentary made these days. Regrettably, a lot of these documentaries are made in Canada and supported by our taxes. Just last night, there was an interesting program on the Costa Concordia wreck which was accompanied by a loud, inappropriate wailing noise throughout the whole program, which made the sound track difficult to follow.

It seems that the educational establishments who teach the production skills necessary to make these programs have no technical content because it is obvious that they have never heard of signal to noise ratio and the theory that when this is maximum, the received signal is most intelligible.

One of my objections to background music is that those of use whose hearing is down a few dB have more difficulty in hearing the soundtrack than those with normal hearing which is another good reason for curtailing this pollution.

I was in Harrogate UK a few years ago and was passing a pub (unusual for me) which had a sign in the window saying, "No Background Music". Needless to say I wheeled around and went in for a pint, complimenting the manager on their stand against this sort of pollution.

A couple of years ago, a TVO program included a physiologist who discussed why the younger generation seem to need loud background music wherever they go. It was his opinion that they are so insecure that they cannot stand peace and quiet. Interesting theory.

I try and email some of the TV program makers complaining about their excessive use of loud background music but I find it hard to contact them. They make a habit of hiding away and trying to avoid feedback as is typical of all senior managers today.

(continued, page 3)

Background Noise, by Colin Billowes (*continued*)

Like many of you, I spent a lot of my career helping create a world-wide telecommunications system which provides good quality sound, data and video services yet along comes some moron who thinks it enhances the sound track to drown it out with loud music. It is time to revolt.

I make a small contribution by complaining whenever I can find the culprit and turning down the volume control whenever I can find the amplifier in stores and restaurants. I have also begun a global organization named the International Society for the Abolition of Background Music and appointed myself President for Life.

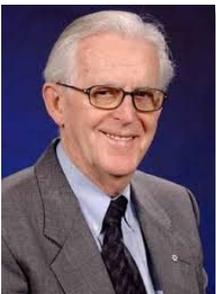
We need to attack this insidious pollution on every front!

[Colin Billowes](#)

Colin welcomes your comments!

Obituaries

Dr. Maxwell House 1926 - 2013



Dr. House passed away last October 17. He was well known to CRC and DOC staff through his role as leader of the Memorial University telemedicine program, the sponsor of one of the most successful Hermes/Anik B projects.

Max was a distinguished Newfoundlander: the first neurologist, initiator of the medical school at Memorial University of Newfoundland, a telemedicine pioneer and the province's 10th lieutenant-governor.

His influence was most felt in the area of telemedicine. In the mid-1970s, Dr. House introduced a telemedicine/telehealth program at Memorial using the telephone network. He was a visionary who anticipated the value of satellites for expanding such services. Through the Hermes program launched in 1976, he had the opportunity to demonstrate the potential of its high power and small earth stations. CRC provided a base station at Memorial University and earth stations to receive video and telephony at 4 remote hospitals. The video component was used for a variety of training/educational sessions transmitted to the remote sites. Trials of slow-scan TV via the telephony channel were used to evaluate images from the remote locations. The success of the 3-month trial led to follow-up projects using Anik B. Always looking for ways to expand medical service, Dr. House saw the need for such services on drill rigs. To meet that application, Eric Tsang led a CRC team in developing a terminal with a stabilized platform to compensate for the vexing problem of the motion of the rig.

(continued, page 4)

Dr. Maxwell House, (continued)

Dr. House was becoming recognized as a telemedicine authority and CRC and DOC fostered this. He and other telemedicine participants at CRC gave a live presentation via Hermes to a group of doctors in Australia. Later he made another presentation live from Memorial U. to “Uplink 84”, a large conference in Vienna, during which an EEG demonstration in a remote hospital was transmitted to Memorial University by Anik B and onward by international satellite to the audience in Vienna. They were impressed. (John Palmer of DOC HQ made the arrangements and Bert Blevins introduced the session in Vienna).



CRC Image 84-12988a



CRC Image 80-1344



CRC Image 97-6053



Eric Tsang with the transportable terminal, CRC image 81-3581a

The province-wide system now links 65 locations, including offshore drill rigs and the Hibernia platform, and provides more than 1,000 consultations a month. Initiatives have included tele-oncology, tele-nuclear medicine, ultrasound and tele-psychiatry. Distance health education includes programs for diabetic patients and parents of deaf children.

Dr. House became internationally known for his expertise, travelling all over the world, from New Delhi to Oslo. He presented papers in more than 35 countries and networked and consulted in many others. His work put Newfoundland and Labrador on the national and international forefront. He received several awards for his work including being appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. He was also honoured by being appointed lieutenant-governor for Newfoundland for 1997 to 1992.



CRC Image 83-8316a



CRC Image 82-5525

Contributed by [Doris Jelly](#), with files from *The Globe and Mail*, 18th November 2013 and images from the CRC Image Collection.

Where Are They Now?... Don MacMillan

No, I'm not dead yet, but I will be within 20 years or so. Three years ago, I was diagnosed with intestinal cancer, which means that every couple of years, the surgeon goes into my gut to remove the tumours. They cut away a 6" piece of my small intestine. Then they sew me up, discharge me and wish me well. Mathematically, as a normal small bowel is about 26 feet long, I could live another 50 years. I have been told that it is not the cancer that will kill me, but it will be the chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments.



Don MacMillan, about 1986

Meanwhile, I enjoy my remaining years with my wife Aija (we've been married 45 years) and 4 grand-children. Some of you may remember my son, James, who worked at CRC as a co-op student in the late 1990s. Post CRC, he joined Nortel and now is with Ciena at the former Nortel campus.

Let's move on to CRC where I began in the late 1960s. I was an employee of CBNRC (now known as CSE or Communications Security Establishment at the corner of Heron Road and Riverside Drive). As my world then was HF radio and PDP computers, I would visit CRC for technical discussion with experts like Sherman Chow, John Belrose, Bob Jenkins, and numerous other exceptional people.

Then I moved to Transport Canada and got involved with HF Datalink research in the mid-1970s. Again, this brought me back to CRC where I used the CRC Ashton antenna site to conduct research on HF receivers. Then I was shipped off to HF antenna farms in Gander, Frobisher Bay and Resolute Bay.

In 1981, I was transferred to work on the Telidon project. I had an office in the basement underneath the cafeteria. I would split my time between working at CRC, downtown with DOC, at the Genesys computer firm on Courtwood Crescent in Ottawa, Norpak in Kanata and the CBC headquarters in Montreal. My bosses were Jim Feely, François Perrier and Ralph Hutchison. Other names were Bob Warburton, Roy Marsh and Raj Ahluwalia. Raj was unique as he was a lawyer as well as an engineer. Once Telidon was terminated (about 1986), I was assigned to work with Bob Baser in the area of Office Automation. I also worked with the late Jacques Lyrette in Laval (Workplace Office Automation Centre) and at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, during the construction stage.

About 1988, I was shipped back to CRC to work with Yung Foo Lum in Buildings 4 and 2 and then to one of the temporary trailers. As my background was systems design of hardware and software with small computers since 1967, I was in high-tech before this word was really invented.

(continued, page 6)

Don MacMillan, (continued)

In about 1990, I was transferred to work with René Voyer, Gérald Chouinard and John Story in the area of digital broadcast engineering. In 1993, I again moved to Dept. of Communications downtown to work with Ron Begley, Ralph Zeitoun, Royce Trenholm and George Zurakowski. My job was to manage the frequency planning of the Canadian Digital Radio roll-out in the 1.5 GHz band. Every Canadian AM and FM station was given an operational slot. This took about 7 years. In the end, the Canadian broadcasters never implemented the DRB system. To this day, Canada does not have a digital radio system in the FM or AM band. The closest we have is the satellite XM-Sirius which uses a 2.2 GHz slot. Stay tuned as a US system called “HD Radio” (aka In-Band On-Channel or simply IBOC) is being tested in a few select FM markets in Canada. The digital world inside your cars will change dramatically over the next 10 years.

Where am I now? Well, I retired in November 2012; actually, I was laid-off in the Workforce Adjustment and then retired. The “lay-off” status is important as those who were laid-off were entitled to an educational allowance of up to \$10K. This I accepted and promptly enrolled at University Saint Paul in Ottawa where I study theology. USP granted me zero credits for my B.Eng and M.Eng degrees. As a B.Th. degree is 60 courses, it is unlikely that I will live long enough to complete this. For me, the formality of this extra degree is not important, as I am thoroughly enjoying myself and doing something that interests me. Every retired person should be so blessed.

[Don MacMillan](#), November 2013

Contact Us...

Chair, Archivist, Newsletter:	John Brebner	john.brebner@brebner.com	613-731-6220
Secretary:	Neville Reed	nev_reed@yahoo.ca	613-596-1434
Membership:	Seymour Shlien	sshlien@crc.ca	613-722-1296
Badges:	Andre Kennedy	aeck@storm.ca	613-829-9697
Website:	friendsofcrc.ca	email: crcfriends@igs.net	Office Phone: 613-990-6673
Facebook 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		