

Upcoming Events

May 28th, 2015

The Friends of the CRC have arranged for a [Field Trip to the National Geomagnetic Lab/Canadian Space Weather Forecast Centre](#) on May 28th, 2015.

The tour, including the back compound, will take at least two hours. Please wear adequate footwear and dress appropriately for the weather, as it is a bit of a hike to get to the buildings in the back compound. To allow time for questions and discussion the tour will start promptly at 1:30 pm. Parking near the building is limited and we would suggest you arrange to car pool with other attendees (Arto and John Gilbert can help with making connections).

Dr. Robyn Fiori, who has kindly arranged the tour and is our point of contact, has advised us that she will need an advance list of our group and it will be necessary to check for proof of citizenship when you sign in. Proof of citizenship includes a birth certificate, passport, landed immigrant certificate, or citizenship certificate. A driver's license is **not** proof of citizenship.

Although attendees who are Canadian citizens can be added up until the tour starts we plan to provide the Centre with a list of attendees in advance.

Please confirm your attendance with either Arto (arto.cp@gmail.com) or John Gilbert (jjgilbert@ca.inter.net, Tel 613-724-1266) as soon as possible.

Feel free to join us for lunch prior to the tour at:

Robbie's
1531 St Laurent Blvd
Ottawa, ON K1G 1A1
robbies.ca
(613) 744-8585



Image 15-7016, courtesy John Brebner

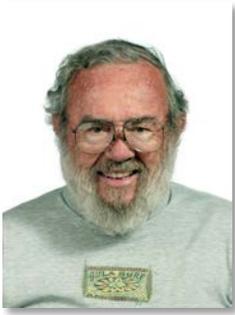
Here are the coordinates for the Centre:

Canadian Space Weather Forecast Centre | Le centre canadien de météo spatiale
Natural Resources Canada | Ressources naturelles Canada
2617 Anderson Road, Ottawa ON K1A 0E7 | 2617, rue Anderson, Ottawa ON K1A 0E7
Robyn.Fiori@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca
Telephone | Téléphone : (613) 837-5137

This is the final event for the Friends of the CRC for the 2014-2015 Season. We hope you will join us to make the event a success.

Arto Chubukian and John Gilbert

Billowes' Rant



Colin Billowes

Air Piracy

I have written before about the way we are increasingly being ripped off. Surely the airlines must be right at the top of the table for modern-day piracy. Remember the old days when they fed you at no charge, your checked baggage was free and you could change your flights without a punitive fee. Days long gone, I regret to say.

One of the presumably unintended consequences of charging for checked baggage is that people now try and take all their worldly possessions into the cabin, making the loading and unloading process even longer. I have not actually seen someone trying to get a kitchen sink on board, but I've seen items in that category.

So how did the airlines react to this? Instead of enforcing the one small hand bag rule, they enlarged the overhead bins, encouraging the practice. However, I suspect they have a diabolical trick up their sleeve which will be a charge for cabin baggage over a certain weight.

As for charging for food, I suppose it is not unreasonable except that the food wagon now has to traverse the aisle before the drinks trolley meaning that it can be nearly two hours before one can slake one's parched throat with even a non-alcoholic drink. Incidentally, you may not be aware that you can legally take a shot of your favourite tittle on board as long as it is in a vessel which does not exceed the security limit size for liquids, which I think is 3 ounces or, better, 90 grams.

But the practice I most object to is the outrageous charges being leveled for a change in your flight plans. The airlines rip you off from \$150 to \$200 to make a simple change and the on-line travel agents have joined in this highway robbery with an additional \$30 charge for "administrative fees". I had to change a short flight once and the airline wanted \$150 to allow me to do it – it was cheaper to abandon the ticket and buy another one.

That blatant stealing really makes me mad. I want to know why the government, allegedly there to protect our interests, does not limit these fees to roughly what it costs to change a ticket, which is probably about a buck, ninety five. One reason for this may be that governments are a party to this scam with their interminable fees they now add to the ticket, which sometimes add up to some 50% of the cost of the ticket. I remember when a frequent-flyer financed ticket was free – now it can cost hundreds of dollars in fees for a long-haul flight.

Some years ago I was in London UK and I wanted to visit an old friend in Glasgow. This was in the days when Ryan Air was selling tickets at absurd prices for promotional reasons and I got a round trip for the enormous sum of 8 quid. However, when I totted up the total cost of the trip from central London and back it was 83 pounds which included the sandwich I bought on board my 4 pound flight for 3 pounds 75!

Regrettably this sort of thing petty piracy is spreading. I see many hotels are now trying to flog rooms on a pay-when-you-book basis with no refund if you want a change. I see no hope of any push-back – we are all a flock of sheep being led to the fleecing!

[Colin welcomes your comments!](#)

From the Image Archives

Last month's images of 1950's construction were popular with our readers, so in this final newsletter for the 2014-2015 session, we showcase some more images of initial building activity at Shirleys Bay from the CRC Image Archives.

(Click on any image to download a full-size version.)

(Note that many of the earliest negatives were on a less-stable diacetate base, hence the poor quality.)



Bldg. 2A, RPL, 1952-53

CRC Image: left 53-RPL-0264, right 53-RPL-0307



Bldg. 2B, 1958

CRC Image: left 58-RPL-0205g, right 58-RPL-0205a



Bldg. 2C, 1960

CRC Images; top left: 60-RPL-0633; top right: 60-RPL-0650;

bottom left: 60-RPL-0792,

bottom right: 60-RPL-0953



Message From The Chair

The Friends of CRC have had another full and successful session in 2014-2015.

Despite some challenges in dealing with new security procedures and the loss of the CRC auditorium due to ongoing construction, we managed to present a full slate of talks, as well as two field trips and two well-attended luncheons. The monthly newsletters are proving to be a popular contact point, and I know that many of you look forward to reading about our events and projects, as well as seeing archival photographs from our early history.

And no mention of reader interest would be complete without mention of Colin Billowes' Rants!

I'd like to thank our Board for all their help in making this year such a success, and hope that after a summer break, we will return refreshed in September with another season of interesting and stimulating events for our members.

Our organization depends on the visible support of all our members. We encourage you to attend our monthly talks, our field trips as well as our popular twice-annual social luncheons, and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible next season.

If you have any thoughts about what you would like to see next session, or to be added to our Newsletter mailing list, please contact myself or any of your Board at the contact points shown below.

See everyone in September!

John Brebner, Chair

Contact us...

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