

### Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 1300, in the Private Dining Room



Dr. Ken Gibson

#### A Very Personal View of the H.A.R.P. Project

Dr. Ken Gibson will discuss Canada's involvement with the the [H.A.R.P gun for space launches](#). In the early 1960's, that project was touted as a cheaper alternative for launching orbital payloads than conventional rocket technology.

Ken Gibson managed the H.A.R.P.in Barbados between 1964-1967. He remained in contact with the key players until the demise of Dr. Gerry Bull in March 1990.

The talk will cover the origins of H.A.R.P, the key personalities, the politics in Canada and Barbados, some problems with the gun, the firings during the above period and the slow death of the Barbados Project.

As Manager in Barbados, Ken had a front row seat, and was involved to some unusual events associated in running a firing range with a staff of up to 300 in the tropics.



Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 1030 - 1200 at the Aviation Museum

Transfer Ceremony of F.T. Davies Papers from CRC to the Museum of Science. These papers were held in boxes, first from Jack Belrose's office hoard and eventually at CRC in the old Library. Doris Jelly subsequently catalogued the collection that includes many personal notes by late DRTE Chief Superintendent F.T. Davies, and John Brebner digitized those papers during 2014. Please let us know if you plan to attend... seating is limited.

Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015; 1300 in the Private Dining Room

Ralph Cameron will discuss the Decommissioning of the Algonquin Radio Observatory Solar Array.

Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015; 1130 - 1400 \*\*\* *location to be announced* \*\*\*

Annual Friends of CRC Christmas Luncheon

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 2016.

Friends and spouses, Shirleys Bay staff are all welcome, but **please be advised of current security requirements on Page 6.**

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

## May Field Trip, Space Weather Canada

Here are some images from our most enjoyable and informative May Field Trip to Space Weather Canada.

*Below:*

*Group at one of the remote huts, examining museum equipment; Dave Barlow at display.*

*Right, top to bottom:*

*N.R. Can facility; Ray Bérubé and Rolf Mamen examine equipment; Ray Bérubé and Bernard Caron; Dr. Robyn Fiori shows us the Control Centre.*

*All photographs courtesy John A. Brebner. Many thanks to Board Member Arto Chubukian for organizing this successful event.*



Image 15-7164a



Image 15-7092



Image 15-7157



Image 15-7105



Image 15-7144



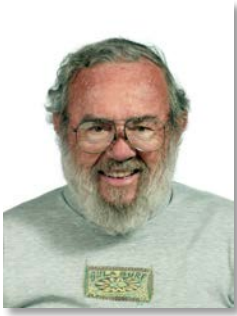
Image 15-7142



Image 15-7163

## Billowes' Rant

### Income Tax



Colin Billowes

Hundreds of millions, perhaps billions, of dollars are spent each year and enormous amounts of time is spent on filling and filing our income taxes – yet most of this is entirely unnecessary.

The Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) already knows almost everything about your income and most of your deductions. Copies of every income tax slip sent to you, are also sent to the CRA and even if you are an investor, your stock brokers know your capital gains and losses. CRA also knows most of your deductions, many of which remain much the same from year to year. I know this to be true because one year I got a T-slip after I had filed, so I called the tax people and asked what I should do. “Don't worry about it” they said, “we'll pick it up from our copy of the T-slip”

Why then do we have to spend all this time, effort and money preparing and filing our taxes when they already have most of the information?

It would be so much easier and cheaper if the CRA sent us their version of our tax return and just asked us to verify or amend it as necessary. In the vast majority of cases, you would find they have got all the information and all you would have to do is to sign it and return it. Probably most changes would be trivially simple, like an increase in the family or some such item of which the CRA is not aware.

I know that this idea is not going to sit well with the army of people who earn income from tax preparation but the savings in costs to the small taxpayer, the reduction in time wasted and the individual stress, far outweighs the welfare of tax preparers!

This is not a revolutionary idea. When I worked in UK in the early 1960s, this is exactly how the personal tax system worked and to the best of my knowledge it worked well – it certainly did for me. Each year the tax people sent me my draft return and asked me to accept it or amend it. For the average person it was a trivial exercise taking a few minutes.

I think I will ask my new MP to take up the idea – care to join my campaign?

Imagine never having to do your taxes again!

[Colin welcomes your comments!](#)

### Mystery Image!

This panoramic framed image was found during the 2012 clean-up at CRC. The Board has examined it extensively, and can recognize nobody!



Friends of CRC Image 15-7015

It appears to have been taken at some sort of conference in Europe, perhaps in Belgium around 1954. If our readers have any ideas about the photo, please let us know! [\(Click to download larger image\)](#)



John A. Brebner, Chair

## Your Participation in the Friends of CRC Activities

While the specific question of member activity in the Friends' is my primary concern, this is a problem facing most volunteer organizations today. Why don't we get more members attending and enjoying our activities? This really is an urgent concern!

The answer to that question is a complex one, and not just specific to the Friends of CRC. Volunteer organizations of every stripe are losing active members and event participation is decreasing at an alarming rate.

Part of that problem is addressed in Robert Putnam's 2000 book, *"Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community"*; he details what he calls "social capital" in the United States since 1950. The loss of in-person activity that used to be a large part of people's daily activities has been co-opted by the internet, and its pervasive "always-connected" culture. And that has resulted in the lack of civil engagement, shown by a low election turnout among younger people.

It's not just volunteerism and voting, but also related organized activities such as church attendance. All these activities share a common root... group participation in daily life. We are being drawn away from that, more so with younger people glued to one-on-one "virtual" activities and away from regular and daily group and family interactions.

Socializing has become individualized, and with statistics showing the average person spends almost 6 hours a day online, (*I can't believe that... but it's on the internet, so it must be true!*), with more than 1.7 hours/day on social media alone, plus another 4+ hours/day watching television; it's not difficult to see that remaining time for all other activities are constrained, if not eliminated entirely! (*Older folk spend less time on social media, but more on TV!*)

I suspect there's no easy solution to the root problem... but how we manage the Friends of CRC's decreasing involvement with our own historic family, DRTE and CRC, is one that needs attention. I think our members want to be involved, but time constraints for many people are even more pressing now than they were even twenty years ago.

That old saying from recent retirees stating that "I don't know how I found time to work every day when I was employed" comes to mind!

People who volunteer for any organization are interested in being part of something bigger than themselves that can make a difference. And since the 1990s, the volunteers of Friends of CRC have done just that. But I worry that there is no "new old material" being contributed to our website. And fewer and fewer new members!

While CRC has undergone many changes in the past few years, there are many recent accomplishments that need to be recorded in an historical context. Those should be documented! We will happily accept any stories about those recent developments... and not just the "nuts-and-bolts" of your staff project, but something that illustrates the camaraderie of your work-group! I'd like to think that teams, and not just technologies, are still a focus of CRC!

CRC Management has been most supportive over the years, from providing our office in Bldg. 4, our on-site internet access, our ability to present monthly lectures in the auditorium or the Private Dining Room, as well as funding the service provider for our [friendsofcrcc.ca](http://friendsofcrcc.ca) internet site. For that, the Friends are most grateful.

But unless we can convince more members to attend our presentations, it becomes less likely that we will be able to maintain or leverage those ongoing considerations in the future.

Why don't more people attend our monthly presentations?

*continued next page*

## Friends of CRC Attendance, cont'd

I suggest that there are several reasons.

First, the 72 hour security notification to attend any event on the Shirleys Bay campus makes a difference. In the past, some of our older members might attend a winter event, deciding on that day if weather permitted them to drive to Shirleys Bay. It was much easier in the past to bring a spouse, family or friends at a minute's notice.

Second, since our lectures and presentations have become less "general", perhaps we only attract the former engineers and scientists, and not the support staff that used to attend presentations on subjects like gardening, genealogy and travel. But as Chair, I think that we have to maintain a closer link to our mandate in presenting technical subjects that directly relate to CRC's past history in communications and space. And unique presentations that involve personal research and histories from those former employees that were involved in that research are very important. We are here to preserve Shirleys Bay history!

General, and mostly well-informed information about any subject under the sun is available 24/7 via the internet.

Third, the simple fact is that our members are becoming older, and perhaps less mobile or able to attend our events. And, not to put too fine a point on this, we're losing members through attrition. No spring chickens here!

We provide two primarily "social" events each season: our off-site Christmas and Spring luncheons that welcome all our members, families and friends who enjoy catching-up on their fellow retirees' activities!

Our fall and spring Field Events and Trips are great for anyone looking to enhance their knowledge about other scientific or communications-related sites in the National Capital Region, as well a giving them a chance to get out and about in the company of like-minded individuals. All are welcome!

Our mandate is to preserve Shirleys Bay communications history and to educate Canadians to those achievements.

How can we attract both a larger audience to our CRC presentations, and encourage new members to join our organization? I think our balance of lectures, field trips and social events is a great mix of activities, with something for every member. But attendance is still dropping! We need new members!

How do we address that decrease? Certainly our monthly newsletter goes a long way to letting our expanding mailing-list know about our presence. Our website, under ongoing redevelopment, is a wealth of information about that 60 years of Shirleys Bay history, and, from that, we receive both positive feedback and information requests.

We are also on the look-out for new Board members. According Canadian sources ([Employment and Social Development Canada](#)), [the average volunteer spends 76 hours a year](#) with charitable organizations. Can you help on a monthly basis with our activities... I promise to start you off slowly!

When you look at internet and social media usage hours as comparison, that's less than 1.5 hours per week!

I am resisting generating another survey of members as to how we can remedy low participation and attendance. [I'd rather hear personally from each of you.](#)

What do you think? What can your Board do to increase member participation? [What can I do?](#)

John Brebner, Chair

*(Disclaimer: These are my personal opinions, and not necessarily those of the Friends' Board)*

## Message From The Chair

As we settle in to the fall and upcoming winter weather here in Ottawa, I'd like to make a request to all Friends' members who live in the area.

**Please** attend our lectures, special events and field trips! Our organization is no different than many that are seeing a decrease in attendance at physical events. The turnout at last month's presentation by CRC President Jean Luc Bérubé was embarrassingly low! Why? See my editorial above!

And once again, it's time for our optional membership levee... your \$10 contribution helps to provide refreshments at our presentations, as well as such mundane operating supplies as ink cartridges, blank DVDs and presentation materials. All contributions really are necessary... your Board is happy to give their time to the Friends, but...

November 5<sup>th</sup> is the hand-over of the F.T. Davies papers to the Museum of Science, and **space is limited!** Please let us know by email, or telephone message (613-990-6673) if you plan to attend, before October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015!

John Brebner, Chair etc.

### Visitor Access

Please remember that we need to provide a Visitor Clearance Request (VCR) short-list of members who plan to attend **any** CRC events.

Accordingly, if you plan to attend the October 29<sup>th</sup> lecture, you [must notify Andre Kennedy of your intention to do so by October 26<sup>th</sup>](#).

**If you do not state your intention to attend in advance, you will be denied access** to CRC at the Reception Centre.

Please contact our [Badge and Access Coordinator Andre Kennedy](#) for details and action.

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## Contact us...

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