

### Upcoming Events

#### **September 25<sup>th</sup>, CRC Auditorium**



*CRC Image 11-7381a*

Jean Luc Bérubé, the President of CRC has agreed to talk to the Friends for our first meeting of the 2014-2015 session. Jean Luc has been very generous with his time and support at our events over the past two years, and we are very pleased to welcome him again to update us at our fall session of the Friends of CRC.

Many of you will recall his insightful comments, both from last September and at our spring lunch about the future of CRC. Since that time, three primary research directions have been identified:

[http://www.crc.gc.ca/eic/site/069.nsf/eng/h\\_00045.html](http://www.crc.gc.ca/eic/site/069.nsf/eng/h_00045.html)

They are:

- Grand Challenge R&D,
- Direct Client Support R&D, and
- Wireless Technology Foresight.

Jean Luc will expand on those priorities and how CRC is both supporting the challenges of Industry Canada's Spectrum Management mandate and also advancing new technologies for Canada's role in worldwide telecommunications.

With the ongoing interest in our increasing usage of limited spectrum availability and enhancing consumer value in wireless telecommunications, as well as the current CRTC hearings about the future of cable television in Canada, this promises to provide a timely update into the direction of CRC and its role in spectrum research and development for the benefit of all Canadians.

#### **October 30th, 2014**

##### **Spectrum Policy 1970's Style**

This shared presentation by Ed Ducharme and John Gilbert will reflect how new demands on radio frequency spectrum in the 1970s led to the reallocation of prime spectrum in Canada.

New processes, such as public consultation through the Canada Gazette and the formation of user committees were subsequently established.



*Above: Northern CNCP microwave repeater station.  
CRC Image 79-38692*

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

## Upcoming Articles for the 2014-2015 Season

With the recent discovery of one of the ill-fated [Franklin expedition](#) vessels in Canada's arctic, there is a renewed interest in that area of the world. Of course, DRTE and CRC researchers have been present in the arctic from the end of the second World War, during the Cold War and up to present times. Their initial interests in the 1950's were in military radio propagation and the difficulties of reliable signal reception in the high-arctic. To that end, DRTE established a number of ionospheric stations in Canada to investigate upper-atmospheric phenomena. Those ground-based investigations led to the Churchill rocket programs and the ionospheric top-sounding satellite programs that began with Canada's Alouette satellite.

There are so many stories, found on the [Friends of CRC website](#), that give a personal insight into those who worked there on those programs half a century ago .

Clyde River was one such station, and in subsequent issues of this newsletter, Friends' Board member John Gilbert will relate some of the fascinating and tragic history related to that outpost.

Radio spectrum and its efficient usage have been a research priority for DRTE/DRDC and CRC for over 60 years. While those early researchers could have never imagined today's crowded spectrum and an almost fully digital world, they were certainly aware of the physical limitations of the information-carrying potential of various radio frequencies as well as the vagaries of propagation of many of those carriers.

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## How Can You Help?

Should any of our members have photographs of the early stations, I would be happy to make electronic copies. If you live in eastern Ontario/western Quebec, then I'd be happy to freely visit and digitize them on-site... and that goes for any personal DRTE/CRC images that you may have. Many of our older members have slides from the 50's through 80's that relate to DRTE/CRC that are not within our existing collection. I'd like to ensure that they don't get lost, and that future researchers may benefit from those old photographs. While the fate of the CRC image collection is still undetermined (although the Friends do have all digital images), I think that it is of primary importance that as many of Canada's telecommunications images or films in private hands be digitized and documented as soon as possible. You will, of course, receive digital copies of all images made. And both the Friends of CRC and future generations will benefit from your participation and generosity in adding to the recorded history relating to Shirleys Bay.

If you have a tale to tell, photographs to share, please let me know (contact details at the end of the newsletter) and we can arrange a time and place to record your personal stories.

If you have a short article to submit, we'd also be delighted to share it here or on the [Friends Website](#) with our readers.

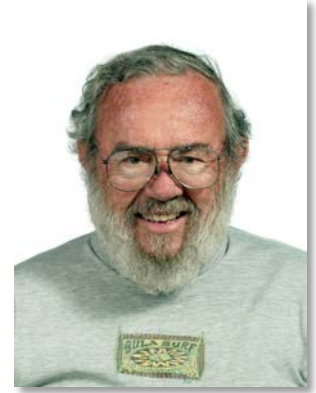
[John Brebner, Friends' Archivist](#)

## Billowes' Rant

### Language and its Evolution

Listening to CBC radio recently, I heard two presentations by so-called educators. The first was an Ottawa school principal who peppered his presentation with “errs” and “ums”, and the second was by someone who said “you know” at the end of almost every phrase. These people are in charge of educating our kids!

More broadly, the airwaves are full of presenters who are unable to speak proper English. Even the CBC which was once hot on this topic, now seem to tolerate bad English even by their reporters.



One of the more glaring examples of this is the dreadful and meaningless phrase, “very unique” and similar phrases. The words are meaningless as well as being atrociously bad grammar. Sports writers can be some of the worst manglers of the language, not surprisingly, as I suspect that many of them may be ex-sports persons themselves, which typically means that their academic qualifications were minimal – Ken Dryden excepted.

Let's consider the dreadful new word “cool” used by the younger generation to as a substitute for anything which is interesting, clever, intelligent, fascinating, desirable, etc. I have told my granddaughters that using the word “cool” is not cool, but so far, it hasn't had any noticeable effect.

My 10-year-old granddaughter speaks very well, but at such a high speed that I often find her incomprehensible. I will accept that my hearing isn't what it used to be but I notice that even her parents have asked her to slow down occasionally. This practice of speaking very rapidly seems widespread. One noticeable example of this is the traffic commentator on CBC morning radio who seems determined to complete his reports in the shortest possible time, using the technique of ignoring all punctuation, especially periods. This results in it being quite difficult to absorb the information being given. I have communicated my views to the CBC on this which were, of course, ignored.

Let's now consider what is probably doing more damage to good English than any other factor – Twitter. I find it incomprehensible that society should limit their messages to 140 characters, but that's their choice. The problem is that this restriction is leading to all sorts of abbreviations, diminutions, acronyms, and the like, which are being quickly assimilated into everyday speech.

Some of you will remember Roy Dohoo and Bert Blevis in the old days at CRC especially when publications were considered by their Review Board. I can remember well the apprehension I had after attending a review of a paper that I had prepared as these worthy gentleman were not only devastating in their criticism of the technical content, but also of the grammar and language, of which both were masters.

[The Institution of Engineering and Technology](#) has an annual global competition for students who make 10 minute presentations on a technical subject of their choice. I am often a judge at these events and I am usually not very happy with the quality of the presentations even though the technical material may be excellent. In my critique I comment on this and recommend that they consider joining the organization known as [Toastmasters](#) to help them develop a better speaking manner. I point out that in their careers, they will likely have to give many presentations and it is very important that not only the technical content be sound, but that their presentation be polished. I tell them that these are important factors in all successful professional careers.

...continued on Page 4

## Billowes' Rant (continued)

For those of you who are not familiar with [Toastmasters](#), it is an organization devoted to improving public speaking. They hold regular events at which members are required to speak, while the rest of the members pounce ruthlessly on the slightest mistake in either the language or the presentation of the speaker. It is a lot of fun and there is no doubt in my mind that it can greatly improve anybody's ability to speak in public. I highly recommend it.

English is always evolving – it is one of its strengths – but is it also degenerating? I think it is.

### [Colin Billowes](#)

As always, Colin welcomes your comments!

*Editor's Note:*

*Shirleys Bay has its own Toastmasters Club... <http://shirleysbay.ca/>, which meets Thursdays in Bldg. 4.*

## Ernie Brown Honoured

### Bletchley Park Roll of Honour

Ernie Brown, who has spoken on two occasions to the Friends, has been granted the Bletchley Park Commemorative Badge for his work at the monitoring station at the Ottawa Experimental Farm in WWII.

The GCHQ web site states "On behalf of Her Majesty's Government, GCHQ is delighted to recognise the vital service of those who worked at Bletchley Park and its outstations during World War II, by presenting surviving veterans with a commemorative badge":

<http://www.gchq.gov.uk/history/Pages/Bletchley-Park-Commemorative-Badge.aspx>

Ernie's name is shown on the Bletchley Park Roll of Honour with the following annotation:

"Ottawa. Experimental intercept operator, against U-boats".



*Ernie Brown*

*(photo: John Gilbert)*



*Model of German U-boat, used in the film "Enigma" and later donated to Bletchley Park, Wikipedia Creative Commons, Chris Nyborg.*



## Marcel Masse 1934 -2014

Many Friends will remember the late Marcel Masse as Minister of Communications from 1984 to 1993.

Elected in the Conservative Party majority of 1984 that brought Brian Mulroney to power, he served in the Communications portfolio until his resignation in 1993. Despite, perhaps, having more interest in the cultural side of that ministry, he was always welcomed at CRC and quietly understood the details of the technical challenges in the communications portfolio.

His frequent visits to the Shirleys Bay site included the opening of the CSA/DFL's Bay 3 and CRC's Christmas Party in 1986, where I'm sure some of you will remember the selection of fine French wines that he supplied!



*Marcel Masse (right) at the Museum of Civilization opening with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in 1984.*

*CRC Image 84-2458*

[Wikipedia has more details...](#)

## Faith Nelms 1926 - 2014



NELMS, Faith (nee MacDonald)

Born in Victoria, B.C. on July 19, 1926; Died in Ottawa, ON Saturday, June 14, 2014. Beloved wife for 63 years to G. LeRoy B. Nelms.

[Obituary...](#)

*Left: Faith Nelms with Hazel Baskin at the commemoration of the Alouette Monument in 2010.*

*CRC Image 10-2977*

## Herb Pragnell 1922 - 2014

PRAGNELL, Herbert Francis (January 28, 1922 - May 22, 2014) At 92 years of age, Herb Pragnell died peacefully at the Almonte General Hospital on Thursday, May 22, 2014 after a short illness. A member of the Wartime RMC class of 1940-1942, Herb served overseas with the Royal Canadian Engineers in England, and then with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) in Italy and during the liberation of Holland. Post-war, Herb completed his Civil Engineering degree at McGill University and spent most of his career with the Defence Research Board in Ottawa. As an amateur historian, Herb was also a founding member of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum.



*Herb Pragnell (right) with B. Gooding during a DRTE site survey, 1962. CRC Image 62-5750*

[Obituary...](#)

## Message From The Chair

At our Annual General Meeting in May, it was decided by the Board that we need to encourage more Friends of CRC members to receive the newsletter via email. Financial costs in producing, copying and mailing the printed version each month involve a lot of our time and effort. By receiving the newsletter in email format, members have the benefit of both seeing images in colour, as well as being able to link on email addresses and additional content hyperlinks within the publication that are not available in the black-and-white printed version.

Consequently, it was decided to institute a \$20.00 annual surcharge to continue receiving a printed version. This will be initiated with the January 2015 Newsletter. If you wish to receive the mailed Friends' Newsletter after December 2014, please send your payment (cheques payable to "*The Friends of CRC*") at the address below before year-end.

If you know of anyone that would like to receive the **free emailed version** of the Newsletter, we will be happy to include them on our email list.

We're also on the lookout for any members that might be interested in being on our Board and helping with our social events. Please contact us at the addresses below.

Many of you sent us the voluntary \$10.00 annual membership last year. This is used to cover our operating expenses, including coffee and cookies at our speakers' presentations. Your Board appreciates your contributions, and gently remind you that it's that time of year again!

Thanks,

[John Brebner, Chair](#)

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## Contact Us...

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