

Upcoming Events...

September 29th, 2016

1300 hrs

CRC Auditorium

The State of CRC Research by John Lodge



John Lodge; CRC Image 07-4602a

About a year and a half ago, the Communications Research Centre initiated a research program that focused on the question of how sustainable and scalable radio spectrum management could be done in the foreseeable future. This problem was sub-divided into three fundamental areas which are referred to as Grand Challenges; improved understanding of the use of the radio spectrum (*Spectrum Environmental Awareness*), more efficient and effective use of the radio spectrum (Making Better Use of Spectrum), and increased amount of available radio spectrum for mobile broadband communications particularly in the new “5G” bands (Breaking the Frequency Barrier). The presentation will consist of three segments. Firstly, it will provide a review of this Grand-Challenge-centric research program. Secondly, some of the resulting progress and achievements will be summarized. Thirdly, the plans for the coming year (starting now!) will be described.

John Lodge joined the Communications Research Centre in May of 1984 to address digital modem design and implementation for the Mobile Satellite Program (MSAT).

After a few years as a project engineer and then project leader, he served for many years as the Research Manager, Communications Signal Processing. More recently he served for a couple of years as Vice President, Wireless Technologies.

He is currently the Chief Technology Officer for the CRC. He is a fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) and of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

All events are in the **CRC Auditorium**, Bldg. 2 at 1300 hrs unless otherwise noted.

Access to the CRC Auditorium is via the external door to Bldg. 2A only!

Friends and spouses, Shirleys Bay staff are all welcome, but **please be advised of security requirements on Page 5.**

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

Obituaries

Orest Roscoe May 2016



<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ottawacitizen/obituary.aspx?n=orest-roscoe&pid=179930936&fhid=5748>

Orest Roscoe,
CRC Image 62-5509

Adrian Alden August 2016



Above left: Adrian Alden explains the concept behind the rectennas on the prototype SHARP blimp to ADM Douglas Parkhill. (CRC Image 82-7613a).



Above right: At work in his lab in the now demolished Bldg. 67 at CRC. (CRC Image 01-0344a).

Eileen Sarkar June 2016



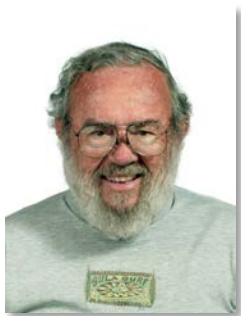
Eileen was a valuable member of the Department of Communications and Canadian Heritage Departments.

Right: With ADM Alain Gourd, Ken Hepburn and Michael Binder

CRC Image 92-1819



<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ottawacitizen/obituary.aspx?n=eileen-sarkar&pid=180350565&fhid=31106>



Colin Billowes

Billowes' Rant

Foolproof Websites

Internet users are a very abused lot. They suffer many indignities from virus through rip-offs to simple bad website design. Unfortunately, there is nobody to speak up for us so it occurs to me that we need an internet users' charter of rights and I need your help putting it together.

What I have in mind is to develop a set of user friendly principles and try and persuade site designers to adopt them.

We might even award a seal of compliance for websites which comply with our principles although right now I have no idea how I stop illicit use of such a symbol. However, we'll deal with that later because we need to see if we can agree on a set of rules. So here goes with a few ideas I have, in no particular order.

- Websites must ensure that when the back arrow is pressed, the site goes back to the last page visited. It is common practice for this not to be the case in my experience.
- Websites must ensure that when they are offering a download, it is the most prominent clickable item on the page. Too often, I am left trying to find where to click to start the download, or worse, attempts are being made to make me buy something I don't want.
- All text must have high contrast relative to its background. My idiot stockbroker has just done a so-called improvement of his site and the instructions in boxes which need to be filled in to perform a transaction are so faint as to be almost invisible.
- Many website pages are too cluttered and need to be tidied up and simplified.
- The concept of "FOOLPROOF" seems almost absent on the internet sites and it is all too easy to make mistakes. This is best addressed by ensuring that a significant number of disinterested ordinary users, using their own computers, test the site to ensure it is lucid, unambiguous and essentially foolproof.
- All website designers must use ten inch screens when developing the pages so that the large number of users with small laptops, notebooks and tablets don't need a magnifying glass to read the text. When testing websites, at least 15% of the test subjects should be over 65 to ensure that this age group, with its associated infirmities, is well represented.
- Proper English grammar should be used at all times and the meaningless, ungrammatical term such as "very unique" is banned, as is any other qualification of such superlatives.
- When preparing multi-page sites, the concept of "logical progression" should be adopted to avoid a lot of the irrational, incoherent, and discontinuous rubbish seen on many sites today.
- Make highlighting, blocking and copying a stable, reliable function, which it is often not today.
- When downloading, stop material jumping all over the page until the download is complete. If necessary, blank the page until it is fully downloaded and capable of stable display.
- Material may not be advertised as free when there is a registration charge. When there are charges for the complete service, such charges must be clearly stated on the first two pages of the site.

These are a few of my own ideas and I'm appealing to you to criticize them and add your own. If I can put together a reasonable charter, I'll see if I can launch it. Don't hold your breath though!

[Colin Billowes](#)

As always, Colin welcomes your comments!

May Field Trip

This spring our members enjoyed an afternoon lunch in historic Almonte, followed by a tour of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum.

Below are some images from that event. (Click on any image to download a higher-resolution version)



Dex Harrison and Rolf Mamen in front of the Museum. (Image 16-1683)



Members with our tour guide. (Image 16-1686).



Dave Barlow and Brian Harron try to figure out how to carry those motors out to their car! (Image 16-1702)



John Gilbert views a loom demonstration. (Image 16-1704)



Joyce Ross and Doris Jelly. (Image 16-1724)



Karen Bryden and Charles MacDonald. (Image 16-1708).



Some of the tour group... (Image 16-1727). All images courtesy John A. Brebner.



Puppet of the late Herb Pragnell. Herb was a long-time employee at CRC in Plant Engineering, and devoted his retirement to promoting the Textile Museum.

(Image 16-1716)

Message From the Chair

Our Annual General Meeting was held on April 28th in the CRC Private dining Room, following a most interesting presentation by Michel Labrecque from the [Canada Science and Technology Museum](#).

We value the close connection that the Friends of CRC have with the Museum, including our successful donation of the F.T. Davies documents this year from our collections, and look forward to continuing our collaboration with them in projects relating to our early and combined communications history leading up to the Canada's 2017 150th celebrations, and the 50th anniversary of our pioneering Alouette spacecraft in 2019.

The Friends will be meeting with CRC's Colette Jubinville in the next few weeks to discuss how we might be able to help with any upcoming displays or celebrations for the 2017 150th anniversary. The question of our members' access to the Campus is also a discussion point... as well as the future of the CRC analog image collection presently in storage. Stay tuned for any new developments on those fronts.

At the meeting, we bade farewell to **Don Ross** as a Board Member, but were encouraged that he will continue in his post as Newsletter proof-reader. As a frequently "all-thumbs" Newsletter Editor, I welcome that!

The Board introduced and elected a new member, **Corey Pike**, who is, I'm sure, very familiar to many of our regulars from his cutting-edge satellite research both at the CRC and DRDC.

The CRC Auditorium is once again open, and, with the exception of our October session, is available to us so that we might better present our guest lecturers in the 2016-2017 session. Access to the auditorium is open via the main Bldg. 2A entrance, (where the portico used to stand).

We have planned a full slate of monthly presentations, luncheons and field trips for our members. Please come out to these events and show your support for the Friends! If you have any ideas for guest speakers, or field trips, please let us know.

In closing, I want to thank all my fellow Board Members for their continued participation in our organization, as well as CRC Management for their ongoing provision of an office, IT support and presentation space for our guest speakers .

Hope to see you at our first meeting of the 2016 - 2017 session!

John A. Brebner, Chair

Visitor Access

Please remember that a Visitor Clearance Request (VCR) is required for each guest who plans to attend any of the Friends' events within the Shirleys Bay Campus. **Without a VCR, you will be denied entrance to the Campus.**

You must notify our [Badge and Access Coordinator Andre Kennedy](#) by September 26th if you plan to attend our presentation on Thursday, September 29th.

If you would like to be included on an automatic list for all talks, please let Andre know.

From the Image Archives... the Kennedy Antenna



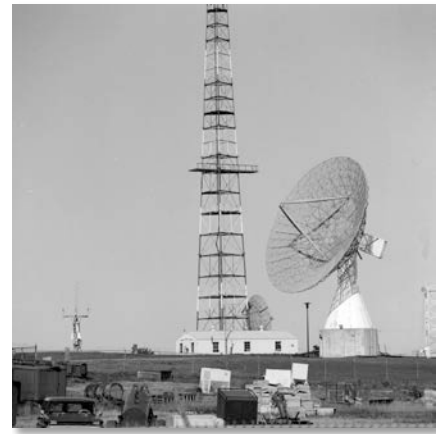
Above: Construction of Kennedy Antenna at Area 6, 1959. (Image 59-RPL-0590d).

Near right: re-construction at CRC, (CRC Image 65-1067); far right: (CRC Image 68-16690).

Originally installed at Area 6, the Kennedy Antenna was moved next to Bldg. 14 in 1965, where it has remained ever since. In 1968, a new antenna feed structure was installed.

Today, it presents safety issues, and can no longer be accessed. For the past few years, it has been used by the [Shirleys Bay Radio Astronomy Consortium \(SBRAC\)](#). That iconic structure on the Campus will soon be removed, and probably sent to the scrap heap.

It would be wonderful to see the structure dismantled, moved to a site such as the Canada Science and Technology Museum and displayed as a prime example of 1960's style space-exploration technology!



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