

# zephyr

ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE NEWSLETTER

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## 150 And Still Going Strong

Recent celebrations across the country surrounding the 150th Anniversary of Continuous Weather Observing took many forms: some elaborate, others quiet and several involving the media.

Beyond all the pomp and circumstance, let us look at the reason for the celebrations, the reason the occasion was important, the reason it all works...PEOPLE.

On September 10, Pacific region's Pat Pender, Margart Phelan and a crew of reporters flew by helicopter to Cape Scott, located on the northern tip of Vancouver Island. There they presented long-time Cape Scott lighthouse keepers Don and Linda Weeden an award and gift for their continued service in the lighthouse weather observation program.

On McGill campus in Montreal, an event was held in late October in recognition of the pioneering efforts of Dr. Smallwood who set up Quebec's first official observatory there 117 years ago. Also for the month of October the "History of Weather



*Actors and weather observer Jiri Werner illustrate past and present observation methods at Toronto ceremony.*

Observing in Canada" display was on exhibit at the Nova Scotia Museum. Senior AES historian Morley Thomas gave a talk on weather observing in Canada, at the museum.

In Brandon, plaques were presented to the Agriculture Canada Station to commemorate 100 years of observing. Mrs. Marjorie Mathison accepted an award on behalf of her family who has been taking observations near Hamiota, Manitoba for 60 years. Awards were also presented to long-time weather and climate observers in Western region.

The largest celebration was the one that took place on September 5th on the University of Toronto campus. While weather broadcasters across the

country wore sweatshirts bearing a replica of the postage stamp marking the anniversary, guests of the celebration enjoyed the unveiling of an historic plaque, historical re-enactments of the first weather observation and the music of the Royal Canadian-Artillery Band. A crew of organizers from Ontario region and Downsview included: John Mills, Nancy Cutler, David Phillips, Gordon Black, Brian Kirkpatrick, Tom Hacking, Brenda Smith....and many more.

While the events were special in their own right, they all recognized the efforts of individuals. We owe the tradition of 150 years to our hundreds of climate and weather observers and to people like those mentioned above.

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But most of all, we owe this tradition to the people of AES. For 150 years weather service employees have been contributing to the vast collection of data which is necessary in the preparation of forecasts and over the long-term, of vital use to scientists studying global warming and other climatic shifts likely to affect our environment.

In Downsview on September 6 there was a gathering with cake and coffee, a tribute to the continuing hard work of employees. ADM Elizabeth Dowdeswell noted the service of AES employees everywhere.