

zephyr

ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE NEWSLETTER

Rio diary

August - September 1992

On June 14, 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) ended in Brazil. Informally known as "The Rio Summit", it was the largest-ever gathering of heads of state in the world, all discussing environmental issues.

What was it like to be there? Along with ADM Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Roger Street, now Chief, Climate Change Detection Division, represented AES at the crucial gathering. The following are his impressions:

A blast of hot, damp air greeted the first wave of the Canadian negotiating team as we stepped from the aircraft in Rio. The heat was on! Normally, temperatures for the beginning of winter in Rio de Janeiro are 20 to 25°C. However, the 30 to 35°C heat that was with us throughout most of the conference seemed appropriate considering the work ahead.

The ride from the airport to our accommodation gave us our first glimpse of Rio, as the Canadian team's hotel accommodations were on the opposite side of the city to the airport. Sugar Loaf and Corcovado Peak came into view. Then, our attention was drawn to the famous beaches as we drove past Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon and finally Sao Conrado across the road from the Canadian delegation hotel. On this drive two things became apparent right from the start - the presence of the army and the smog.

Armed personnel and their vehicles (tanks, armoured vehicles and jeeps) were everywhere along the main routes and around the delegations' hotels. Around the two hotels in which the Canadian delegation (along with the German and Saudi Arabian delegations) were staying, there were armed personnel carrying machine guns and rifles with bayonets. You could see armoured vehicles and tanks every kilometre. A number of people commented that with the Conference security Rio was the safest that it had been in over 25 years. The smog, like the army, was ever-present. The large volume of traffic, augmented by the increased traffic as delegations moved around the city to meetings, filled the streets and highways - and the air.



Minister Jean Charest, Roger Street (CCDD) and ADM Elizabeth Dowdeswell at the Rio Summit.

Once checked into our rooms and unpacked, informal meetings with various members of the Canadian contingent and other delegations began almost immediately. The inaugural meeting of the Canadian team placed Minister Jean Charest firmly at the helm as our captain, establishing the team spirit essential to carry us through the following week of intense activity.

For the negotiators, Rio Centro, located 20 minutes from our hotels, was our universe for the first ten days of June. The schedule for the first day was typical for those that followed. Members of the team first met in the hotel restaurant for breakfast at 6:30 a.m. It was a time to eat (experience suggested that this could be your only substantive meal) and share some conversation about the meetings, Rio, the weather (it was already 30°C) and where/when/if you had dinner the previous evening. The first formal meeting started at 7:00 a.m. with a gathering of the negotiators to assess the results of the previous day and to prepare for the day to come. This was followed at 8:00 a.m. by a meeting of the Canadian contingent chaired by Minister Charest. These meetings provided an opportunity for all Canadian members to become aware of the various happenings, the result of negotiations, and to communicate with those involved in the other UNCED forums.

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At 09:30 the "negotiators' bus" left for Rio Centro, arriving there in time to begin the day's meetings. Like all UN meetings, the schedule was 10:00 to 13:00 and 15:00 to 18:00 with the two-hour lunch "break" set aside for an opportunity to meet with other delegations and UN staff - and perhaps grab a quick bite to eat. The pressure of the work before us required additional meetings to be scheduled in the evenings, nights and on Saturday.

With the weekend approaching and the promise of Sunday off from formal meetings, the possibility of city tours loomed. Long hours and little sleep made rest a high priority for many. However, the thought of coming to Rio and not seeing more than the hotel and the road between the hotel and the airport led most to opt for sightseeing.

The tour of the city was a four-hour whirlwind excursion to many of the high spots in Rio - the beautiful parks, Corcovado Peak, Maracana Stadium (three times the size of the SkyDome) and the Ipanema Craft Market. This was a welcome rest from meetings and allowed us to gather our strength for the last three days.

The pace of the last days intensified with most meetings working through lunch, breaking only for one hour before resuming evening sessions that lasted sometimes until midnight. The final two days saw sessions go early into the morning. On the last "day", negotiators worked right through the night, completing our work at 6 a.m. on June 11. The results of our negotiations were then turned over to the Earth Summit for consideration and adoption

by Ministers and Heads of State. Our jobs were now over. The culmination of over 22 months of negotiations beginning with the first sessions in Nairobi, Kenya in August 1990 was reflected in Agenda 21 before the Earth Summit.

Was UNCED a success? Look at what had been accomplished in just over 22 months: an Agenda 21 consisting of 40 chapters of recommendations, conventions on climate change and biodiversity signed by 150 countries and a cooperative relationship between government, non-governmental organizations and industry.

Yes, much more needs to be done and should have been done. But UNCED represents a solid first step and it is a step forward.

She's a winner



Joanne Marciski shows off prize with David Phillips, CCC.

In the recent AES Canada 125 contest, staffers were asked to submit the most original or humorous story about July 1 weather in any year since 1867. An extensive search of old newspaper articles in the Edmonton Public Library brought Joanne Marciski, Materiel Management Supervisor, Western Region, the following winning entry. Taken from *The Edmonton Bulletin* of July 3, 1886, it describes an eventful Canada Day in Alberta's capital:

"The First - Elaborate preparations had been made for the due celebration at Edmonton of the anniversary of confederation on Thursday last. But the clerk of the weather, who is probably a secessionist, failed to smile approval - indeed went to great lengths in throwing a dampness over the occasion. The morning opened cloudy, with a tendency [sic] to drizzle, very unfavorable for the rifle shooting, but this turned to clearing weather during the forenoon and hopes of a bright day were indulged in. There was a large turn out of people all determined to enjoy themselves, but the afternoon turned out windy and showery which made standing very unpleasant. Notwithstanding this however the programme was gone through and the crowd kept up and the interest was maintained to the last, the end being reached about five o'clock. The proceedings during the day were very orderly and the night was not particularly boisterous. The only accident occurred to D.E. Noyes, who had his nose injured by the handle of the sledge which slipped from D. Maloney's hand as he was throwing it in the sledge competition...."

For this amusing slice of Alberta's weather past, Joanne won the coveted first prize, a trip to Ottawa for Canada Day celebrations. She accepted eagerly, arriving in the Nation's Capital the last day of June. Bright and early on Canada Day, she saw Queen Elizabeth arrive and got close enough to take good snapshots. That evening, she and thousands of others were entertained on Parliament Hill by stars like Céline Dion.

The next day, the fun continued when Joanne was star attraction at an ADMA reception given at AES' La Salle Academy in Ottawa. She received several book prizes but her favourite award was a handsomely-framed replica of the celebrated Canada Day 1867 weather map created by employees of CCC and Training Branch: "It's beautiful. I can't wait to show everyone back at the office."

After touring AES, lunching with dignitaries and wandering around the capital, Joanne boarded her plane the evening of July 2, tired but happily laden with gifts.

Environmental Citizenship -now's the time!

by Christine Hogan and
Sean Lynch

On June 18, as a follow-up to Canada's successful participation in the UNCED conference in Rio de Janeiro, Minister Charest announced a series of new and improved programs under the **Environmental Citizenship Initiative (ECI)**. The \$61 million program challenges Canadians to become good environmental citizens by learning how to protect and preserve the environment.

Two new programs, the **Environmental Learning Program (ELP)** and the **Community Support Program** highlight a need expressed in Rio for individual and group environmental action. The ELP will provide governments, educators and businesses with vital information for public awareness and education campaigns. The **Community Support Program** promotes environmental citizenship by funding the Youth Environment Action Fund, the Volunteers Support Fund and a Community Planning program which helps different interest groups create consensus on a coordinated environmental plan. Three established programs, Environmental Choice, Environmental Partners Fund and Environment Week are maintained and expanded under the ECI umbrella.

AES already plays an major role in ECI. Building on recent experiences with UV advisories, plans are now underway to begin delivering environmental citizenship messages through W04s this fall. AES is also developing core information packages on environmental issues for public education campaigns. The first module being prepared for the ELP by AES, the Climate Change Primer, is due out this fall. Watch for other DOE primers on subjects like water and waste soon.

For information on ECI, contact your regional CORE secretary or Christine Hogan (CCSD) at (613) 943-1534.

Cleaning up the great outdoors

We know that AES employees are great at having fun but never let it be said that they're slackers when it comes to doing the tough stuff. Two examples of initiative recently came to our attention.

The AES Central Region Environmental Awareness Committee helped the Living Prairie Museum, on Winnipeg's outskirts, keep one of the last patches of prairie grassland intact. Preserving the prairie is labour-intensive and the City of Winnipeg, the Museum's owner, lacks funds to do it. So when the Committee approached city officials with an offer of free labour, they were delighted. After consultations with the Museum, the Committee came up with a list of important tasks to do. A volunteer brigade of 50 AES, C&P and CPS employees organized a "Sodbusters' Bee" to get the job done. Appropriately, on the Saturday of Environment Week, June 6, the Environment Canada crew swung into action, using a borrowed C&P all-terrain vehicle, various tools and lots of elbow grease. They removed brush and delicately hand-selected and transplanted plants like prairie crocuses to a protected area. And by carefully removing a strip of bark from each tree, they prevented fast-growing aspens from taking over the grassland. The day resulted in a unique environment protected, a grateful City of Winnipeg and a tired bunch of DOE staffers. Despite their exhaustion, the volunteers celebrated a great day's work with a fabulous picnic.

A time zone away, Lethbridge W04 started its own environmental campaign. Near the Alberta city, deep



Gary Schaefer (CAES), Wendy Tibbatts (C&P), George Kynman (City of Winnipeg) and Scott MacCulloch collect sod for replanting at Living Prairie Museum.

coulees (ravines) slope down into the Oldman River. Sadly, they are too often used as informal garbage dumps. Seeing an opportunity to improve the local environment and increase public awareness, Lethbridge OIC Ron Harrison helped organize an "Adopt-A-Coulee" program with a local nature centre. In May, an initial work party of 30 people, including Lethbridge W04 staffers and CPS staff from nearby Waterton Lakes National Park, picked a kilometre of coulee sparkling clean of rubbish like car parts, watertanks and disposable diapers. This feat brought lots of positive pre-Environment Week media coverage for DOE. In fact, after a local media personality featured the cleanup in her broadcast, the station was flooded with hundreds of calls from local residents looking for a coulee to adopt. The campaign mushroomed so much that 500 people - members of local service clubs, religious groups and just plain folks - turned out to do some serious tidying during Environment Week. This amazing turnout created such a marked improvement in the local environment that there's already talk about "Adopt-A-Coulee" being an annual Environment Week event.

Congratulations to all for real environmental citizenship in action!

Pender's pennies



Pacific Region RDG Pat Pender congratulates Carol Evans on a job well done.

In **Pacific Region**, a need was seen to reward employees for great performance while allowing them to have a say in prize selection. Patterned after a similar program in C&P Western Region, the new "Pender's Pennies" (named after AES Pacific RDG Pat Pender) program allows the employees to participate directly and offers instant gratification. Any employee may nominate an AES Pacific Region employee including him/herself. If the award is approved, a certificate is issued allowing the employee to spend between \$50 and \$500 on anything (within procurement guidelines) to enhance job performance. Any activities advancing the Region will be considered.

Winner of the first award was Carol Evans, EG AISB, Vancouver. While driving to Tofino, Vancouver Island, in a

government car, Carol happened upon a car which had hit a cliff face head on. Two German tourists, delegates to Globe '92, were the passengers. Luckily, Carol's car had a First Aid Kit, which she used to bandage the injured driver's head, which was bleeding moderately. She helped extinguish a car fire and laid out safety cones to make sure the accident site was safe from further damage. She remained on the scene until the tow truck, police and ambulance arrived.

For this brave act, Carol was rewarded with \$100 for a "job well done." She says she doesn't know what she will do with the money but that she's "giving it a lot of thought." However, she advises frequent government car travellers to become familiar with their first aid kits, making sure to carry a working flashlight and fire extinguisher with them at all times.

Carol says, "I was very pleased to assist someone in distress." We're pleased too, Carol and have fun picking out that prize!

Summer silliness

In honour of this light-hearted time of year (sometimes called "The Silly Season"), we humbly present three examples which show conclusively that AES employees know how to have a good time.

Participants came from as far away as Swift Current and Regina WO4s (and Winnipeg) to Amana Bay on Lake Winnipeg for the great **Central Region** Fishing Derby in June. Days were spent fishing, evenings were spent sipping tea, reading poetry and studying the Green Plan. All manner of aquatic life was caught - from sucker, jack and pickerel to that wily fighter, the freshwater clam. A boat was caught but released. Fishing secrets were revealed - pickerel love "gummy bears" candy as bait, for instance. Mark Gerlyand, MT, PRWC, walked away

with the trophy for the largest AES fish, a 4 lb. 12 oz. sucker. Despite huge mosquitoes and weiner-stealing seagulls, everyone's looking forward to next year.

In **Atlantic Region**, the Seventh Annual "Bob-O-Links" Golf Tour started on the year's longest day. The 13 members ambled aboard the tour bus Friday morning with sleeping bags, golf gear and "medicine" in case anyone became ill. Mornings started with a 6 a.m. breakfast, followed by 18 holes of golf, lunch and 18 more holes after lunch. Later, fortified by steak dinners and high spirits, the group sang lustily at each evening's campsite. According to bus driver and tourney namesake Bob Sharples (MAEOT): "We've had a few close calls but so far we haven't been evicted." This two-day, three Nova Scotia course whirlwind ended with prizes given for good

and "not so good" golf. Watch for the "Bob-O-Links" moveable feast to hit New Brunswick at next year's summer solstice.



"On the eve of Canada Day in the land of Eureka/ The people come to party out on the tundra..."

So goes an ode to AES Canada Day festivities way up in **Eureka, N.W.T.** It starts the night before with a festive barbecue on the beach. This is often followed by a brief, bracing dip into Slidre Fiord. And since the sun doesn't set, the fun- including chair-stealing and numerous acts of mischief-never stops. Wish we could be there!

PS 2000 update

The PS 2000 Task Force on Service to the Public found that in many government departments service to the public was still below other considerations. Consequently, in the budget speech of February 25, 1992, the Government announced a plan to improve service delivery by using Canada Employment Centres (CECs) as Single-Window Service Centres whose main task will be to deliver information and service to the general public in an efficient and feasible manner on behalf of other federal departments in smaller, non-urban centres. This means better service to the public as a result of various federal departments working together to provide more improved and cost-efficient services to clients.

Imagine going to a Single-Window Service Centre to pick up information on a federal department program, to check the latest employment opportunities on an electronic bulletin board or simply to report a lost government pension or pay cheque. Canada Employment Centres have been chosen as the primary delivery point of these new, combined services because they are well-established, well-known, full-time offices located in smaller communities. It is likely that other departments will become involved as the project is extended.

AES and the Green Plan

Future WSOs

July 3, 1992 - New ground was broken in Kelowna, B.C. for the Southern Interior Weather Services Office of Environment Canada by the Minister of State for the Environment, the Honourable Pauline Browes and Al Horning, MP for Okanagan Centre. The future office, to be located on the North Kelowna campus of Okanagan University College, will provide a full range of weather services exclusively for clients in the southern interior of B.C. It has a proposed opening date of spring 1993.

July 15, 1992 - A new generation Weather Services Office for New Brunswick to be located in Fredericton will modernize the

More wackiness

A while ago, we asked you to send us your weirdest, wackiest weather questions you have received on duty. Over the months, we've gotten some live and lively responses. And they just keep coming in!

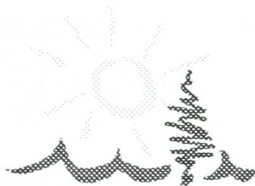
G.B. Jelley, OIC, Canadian Forces Forecast Centre, Trenton has collected some real gems over the years. Here are some of the best:

"My daughter is getting married July 21st next year. Is that a good day?"
"Are my tomatoes going to freeze?"
"It's snowing and blowing out. Can I drive to Saskatoon?"
"I want to do the laundry today. Can I hang them out on the line?"
"Do you have any rain showing on your new Dolby radar?"
"Does the 'Ozone Crises' count?"
"I would like to report a U.F.O. sighting. Do you have the number for NORAD?"
"Would today be a good day to burn my barn?"

And last but not least, our personal favourite:
"I'm getting married this Saturday. What can I expect?"

Anyone who answers these challenging questions correctly, especially the last one, definitely deserves an award.

delivery of weather services for the province, Environment Minister Jean Charest announced. The new office, to be opened in September of 1993, will take advantage of the latest technological developments to better serve the needs of the citizens of New Brunswick.



New Ontario Weatheradio Site

July 18, 1992 - Environment Canada officially opened a new Weatheradio site in Pukaskwa National Park, as part of Parks Day celebrations. The new venture is a joint project of AES and CPS. The

Weatheradio

June 5, 1992 marked the start of Weatheradio broadcasts in the Yellowknife, N.W.T. area. The new station gives hourly updates and forecasts on temperature, precipitation, winds, the UV-B index and summer-time wave and wind forecasts for Great Slave Lake. The first of its kind in the North, the station transmits from Yellowknife airport and covers a 65 kilometre radius, including the North Arm of Great Slave Lake, Rae-Edzo and Fort Resolution. As Gary Schram, AES' Director of Weather Services, Western Region, points out, the public now has an alternative to calling the weather office: "You'll never get a busy signal with this system."



Pierre Ducharme, Regional Chief, Quebec Region, sent along the April issue of *The Messenger*, a newsletter published by the Canadian Dx Club, a group of radio enthusiasts.. It features a extensive, positive article on Weatheradio, including an up-to-date list of all Canadian stations. Good news travels quickly, doesn't it?

new facility will provide an expanded weather forecasting service, which will consist of 24-hour automatic computer-operated broadcasts of up-to-the-minute weather reports and severe weather warnings to travellers along the north shore of Lake Superior.

New Brewers

July 22, 1992 - The ozone layer and ultraviolet radiation will be monitored more precisely in Nova Scotia now that a new Brewer Spectrophotometer has been installed at AES in Bedford. The instrument, the first one to be installed in the Maritimes, was designed and developed by DOE scientists.

July 30, 1992 - A Brewer Spectrophotometer was unveiled in Winnipeg. It will enable scientists to better define ozone and ultraviolet patterns over the southeastern Prairies.

Awards and bouquets

In early June, Treasury Board President Gilles Loiselle presented Environment Canada with one of four Employment Equity Awards for progress in employing persons with disabilities. In 1991, DOE created the Adaptive Computer Technology Centre which provides adaptive technology complete with needs assessment, training and support for employees with disabilities. It is the only centre of its type in North America.

Recently, DOE also received an Award of Merit from the Information Services Institute for its lively factsheet, *Did You Know We Live in a Greenhouse?*, produced jointly by AES and Environmental Citizenship. A second, *The Ozone Layer - What's Going on up There?*, has just been completed. Copies of both publications can be obtained by calling 1-800-668-6767.

On May 12, 1992, Citations of Appreciation were presented to 28 AES inspectors and 82 contract site operators for their outstanding contribution to acid rain research through the Canadian Air and Precipitation Monitoring Network (CAPMoN).

Gary Wells, Dir. Met. Services, Pacific Region, was presented with a Staffing Community Recognition Award from the Public Service Commission and Chiefs of Staffing for innovative staff assessment and his ongoing commitment to the staffing community.

And AES Downsview staff deserve applause. Their Walkathon/Mobilithon raised \$1700 for the Canadian Paraplegic Association during National Access Awareness week in mid-June.

On the move...

Assignment

Amirault, F. from Superintendent MAED to Supervisor MWC
Atkinson, B. from Central Region to CCRD Downs.
Bax, J. from External Affairs New

York to APDG, Ottawa
Bresolin, N. from APDG Ottawa to CD Ottawa
Casgrain, S. from EG Dorval to DA-PRO, CMIN Downs.
Cormick, G. from OIC Western Region to Wx. Anal. AWPS
Freeman, K. from Supervisor MWC to Superintendent MAED
Hansen, C. to EG Edmonton
Horwood, G. to DD Edmonton
Jacques, B. from TC Ottawa to APDG Ottawa
Ladouceur, L. from ALWC to CFFC, CFB Edmonton
Littlewolfe, M. to Human Res. Trainee Edmonton
Martel, P. from APDG Ottawa to CPG Hull
Moreau, M. from MT, CMQ St-Laurent to CMC Dorval
Sauvé, L. from EG Maniwaki to QAEIO St-Laurent
St-Amand, L. to CR Edmonton
Warren, R. from Québec Region to Prog. Anal. AWPD

Promotion

Ascenzi, M. to AS, CCID Downs.
Dieter, G. to EG Winnipeg Pool
Goodison, B. from RES to REM, CCRD Downs.
Hanlon-Dearman, J. to EL Winnipeg
Huggins, S.R. to Pay & Benefits Adv. DGMetOc
Jeffers, S. to MT METOC Centre, Halifax
Kauer, M. to DA-PRO, CCID Downs.
Kelly, D. to DA-PRO, CCID Downs.
Korczak, M. to SCY CCRD Downs.
Langlois, G. from EG Edmonton to OIC Banff
Lee, R. from EG to MT Edmonton
Lui, H.S. to CS, CCRD Downs.
MacPhee, M. to MT CFFO, CFB Greenwood
McFarlane, N. to RES, CCRD Downs.
Tessmer, D. from EG Winnipeg Pool to Surface Insp. Saskatoon
Traves-Metcalf, L. from CR to AS, CCRD Downs.
Simon, C. to DA-PRO, CCID Downs.
Smith, L. to AS, CCID Downs.
Walker, A. to PC, CCRD Downs.
White, C.L. to Met. Inst. CFS Met., Winnipeg
Zwiers, F. to RES, CCRD Downs.

Education Leave

Broszkowski, J.T. from CFFC, CFB Comox

Transfer

Allingham, A.M. from RRMC to CFFC, CFB Comox
Barker, H. from PDF Prog. (NSERC) to CCRD Downs.
Capeling, M. from Wx. Station Mgr. Gillam to Surface Wx. Off. Winnipeg Pool
Cherniawski, J. from Inst. of Ocean Sciences to CCRD Downs.
Ek, N. from CFFC, CFB Edmonton to CFFC, CFB Trenton
Grandmaison, M.K. from OWC to CFFO, CFB Greenwood
Kimbell, P. from CFFO, CFB Greenwood to METOC Centre, Halifax
Lee, W. from Univ. of B.C. to CCRD Downs.
Libby, L. from Gander to DMWS, NDHQ Ottawa
MacPherson, S.R. from NHRC Saskatoon to AETE, CFB Cold Lake
Paola, J. from MT AWDG to AWPL Downs.
Simmer, G. from Gander to METOC Centre Halifax
Soule, I. from AETE Cold Lake to Shift Super. CFFC, CFB Trenton

Departure

Kassian, L. from COSEP Edmonton
Lister, K. from CR Edmonton
Phillips, M. from ARQM Downs. to Australia

Passings

Niniowsky, E. from AS Edmonton

Leave of Absence

Hutzal, J. from CR Edmonton

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Special thanks this issue to Thérèse Martine, Yvon Bernier and Claudia Del Col.

