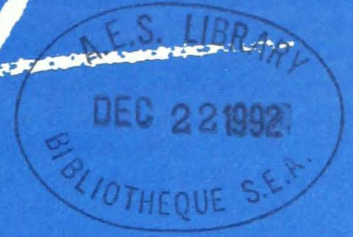


# zephyr



ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE NEWSLETTER

*December 1992 - January 1993*



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada

Atmospheric  
Environment  
Service

Service  
de l'environnement  
atmosphérique

CANADA'S  
GREEN  
PLAN



Service  
through  
science





## About the cover

At Zephyr, being good environmental citizens means we believe in recycling. But we only recycle the best!

This issue's delightful cover is borrowed from our Christmas 1986 issue. The artist, Dr. Fouad Fanaki, was a research scientist at AES Downsview. When not busy with science, Dr. Fanaki could be found working at his other passion, art. With pen in hand, he constantly tossed off lively cartoons. In fact, the witty artworks he created for Zephyr won him an AES "top drawer" award. Sadly, Dr. Fanaki's talents were lost to us when he passed away in July 1988. But we remember him with the cover, which shows what we already know - that even Santa Claus relies on AES.

This warm-hearted cartoon is our way of wishing you the best holiday ever. In other words, have a Cool Yule! - Ed.

## Aboriginal Awareness Day



*Cheyenne Kitchikeg dazzles with the hoop dance.*

The idea for October 8th, "Aboriginal Awareness Day" at AES Downsview, hatched when HR assistant Deborah Doreen was energized by attending "Completing the Circle", the first conference for aboriginal government employees. With newfound zeal, she and a group of volunteers organized a day full of activities high-lighting aboriginal life, arts, culture and spirituality.

Elder Pauline Shirt, a/k/a "Thunder Woman", opened the day with a traditional prayer and a sweetgrass ceremony blessing everyone assembled. Then, the dances began. Among those demonstrated were the grass dance and the jingle dress dance. Cheyenne Kitchikeg's intricate hoop dance was a real crowd-pleaser. This talented 12 year-old became a dynamic work of art by dancing and moving the numerous hoops on his body to a rhythmic drumbeat.

After all the dancing, good food was definitely in order. Spectators and performers alike were treated to a sumptuous buffet of corn soup, venison stew on wild rice, bannock and other treats. For talented chef David Wolfman, this buffet was great preparation for the International Culinary Olympics. (The next morning, he flew to Frankfurt, Germany. There, he and the rest of the Canadian aboriginal cooking team won a gold medal and extravagant praise). After the meal, native arts, crafts and music were displayed.

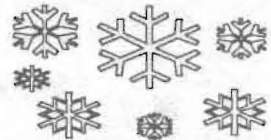
Throughout the day, speakers spoke and answered questions about environmental issues, racism and native culture, medicine and self-government. Next, Art Solomon, a highly-respected elder, wound up proceedings with an uplifting message on the importance of sharing. Beautiful weather propelled the closing ceremonies outside where Art Solomon blessed the crowd. Then, a great day of fun and learning ended with dancing in the bright sunshine.

## CMC saves the day! by Sheila Noble

In case you didn't know it, AES is in the search and rescue business now!

Each day, AES's Canadian Meteorological Centre (CMC) makes its current weather data, weather forecasts, and analyzed data available to computers at the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG). When it needs to, the Coast Guard uses this information in their rescue coordination centres across the country to allow for weather conditions in their search and rescue computer model.

Early this fall, the CMC's daily data sharing paid off with the successful rescue of an elderly man adrift for over 24 hours in a small, open boat off Newfoundland. The Coast Guard had lost contact with the man. But instead of searching in vain, they plugged the information they had into their computer model, added a database of wind information from the CMC and regenerated a search area. With the added wind information, the Coast Guard allowed for wind drift in their search, found the man alive, and returned him home safe and sound. Anthony Patterson of the CCG credits the CMC's wind database with saving the man's life: "Wind has a profound effect on a boat's drift. Without [the CMC's] wind information, we probably would have searched much closer to shore." Way to go, CMC!



## Season's Greetings from ADMA

1992 has been a banner year for AES. From the Ozone Watch and UV programs to the Rio Summit - we've met our challenges head on and turned them into impressive accomplishments. None of this would have been possible without your hard work and dedication to excellence. I greatly appreciate your efforts and I am thankful for your continuing support.

May you and your family have a joyous holiday season and a very prosperous New Year. **Liz**

### News flash

*Dec. 8, 1992 - The UN General Assembly confirmed the appointment of Ms. Dowdeswell as the new Executive Director of the UN Environmental Program (UNEP). Ms. Dowdeswell will succeed Dr. Mostafa Tolba of Egypt early in the New Year.*

Congratulations from all at AES!



## What's the message?

In a constantly changing world, how do you get the environmental word out cheaply, effectively and efficiently?

The folks in Environmental Citizenship and Weather Services can tell you. With their new Environmental Citizenship Messages Program, Weather Services personnel will soon deliver important environmental messages as part of their service to the public. Despite tight budgets, DOE fields constant demands for accurate environment information. Luckily, weather offices and weather briefers form a daily, ready-made mass communications network. As marketing advisor Andrée Mongeon notes: "In 1991, WS' Automatic Telephone Answering Devices (ATAD's) received an amazing 100,000 calls a day and broadcast 1,421 scheduled radio reports.

## The weather - health connection

If you can tell when snow is coming because your arthritis acts up, you may be onto something. Since ancient times, doctors have noted a connection between weather and health. In the last 50 years, a lot of Europeans have investigated this phenomenon but until now, North American research has been sadly lacking.

Meteorologist Denis Bourque, ARDS, Downsview and John Bart, a Toronto doctor, hope to remedy that situation. Five months ago, they formed Can Med Met Net (the Canadian Medical Meteorology Network), which hopes to unite persons interested in meteorology and health. Already, the Network acts as a reference library and information exchange for interested doctors and meteorologists. But its most important function is collecting and encouraging North American research in the area.

There are fascinating tidbits which point at weather's effect on health:  
**Asthma attacks increase the day after a cold front arrives.**  
**Heart attacks and strokes often occur preceding fronts.**  
**A statistically significant number of cancer patients are born in mid-winter.**

The frequency and reach of these communications channels can reach vast numbers of Canadians in a really consistent way."

A lot of planning and consultation with the Service, particularly with Weather Service Specialists, went into the program. The messages, on topics like atmospheric change, water conservation and spaces and species, were developed after being reviewed by DOE scientists for accuracy and regional relevancy. Weather specialists can tailor the professionally created communications to the media's needs, keeping special regional or seasonal concerns in mind. And if problems arise, there's a system of regional or scientific contacts to call.

Program briefings were completed in early December. The next preliminary phase involves OICs checking with

media contacts to ensure interest and a smooth initiation period. The program will then swing into full action in early February 1993.

Although this is a new area, program manager (and former OIC) Rai King says there's lots of enthusiasm: "If there's any reluctance on the part of the regions, it's because they'd like to start it right now." To King, an efficient delivery system makes the difference: "We're getting good support and 6 to 8 weeks of lead time before we deliver the messages. They're solid and scientifically accurate, too." He adds: "We have a trusted organization and a very credible staff. So if you look for credibility, who better to turn to?"

For further information, call Andrée Mongeon at (613) 947-1906.

**Epileptic seizures can be triggered by electrical storms.**

**Birth weights peak in June - July and are lowest from December - March.**

While interesting, these observations do not prove a definite connection without solid scientific research. Neither do personal stories on the topic. But masses of anecdotal evidence add to knowledge in the area and perhaps strengthen the cause-effect chain.

Bearing this in mind, Can Med Met Net is looking for your stories on observed meteorotropic (weather-caused) medical problems. If you know someone who predicts storms from achy bones, or if you've noticed that your migraines occur in certain weather, that's valuable

information. If you have tales to tell, or if you're interested in the Network, call Denis Bourque at (416) 739-4996 or write him at AES, Downsview.

## The European experience

Germans are convinced that weather has a definite impact on human health. For this reason, the German Weather Service (Deutscher Wetterdienst) offers a public dial-in telephone service dedicated to medical information. In 1991, Germans made 1.3 million phone calls to the service. Here's an excerpt from one of the bulletins:

### "Synoptic description

*Cold air advection at the rear of a depression after a sudden change of weather.*

### Medical meteorological information

*In coastal areas, intense low-temperature stimuli caused by strong winds may trigger angina or lead to respiratory stress."*

Could we see similar bulletins in North America in future? Stay tuned!



Denis Bourque (right) and Dr. John Bart, founders of Can Med Met Net.



## "Sylvie's World"



*Sylvie Bergeron and her preferred medium, TV.*

As part of their jobs, meteorologists often work in the media. Some hate it, some love it.

Count Sylvie Bergeron in the latter group. Seeing it as a natural extension

of her work as a meteorologist, she enjoys media appearances and educating the public. Recently, she did a little bit of both. Being on loan to the UV program in Downsview for seven months gave her some unusual communications challenges. Among them was appearing on one of the first shows on "Rogers Télécommunautaire 23", the brand-new French language community access cable TV network in the Ottawa-Hull area. The show in question, "Science Action", promotes careers in science to teenagers.

When approached, Sylvie leapt at the chance to talk about her job. In the program, she spoke about a typical forecaster's day on the desk (if there is one), the science requirements for the job and career prospects. Ever the professional, she cleverly worked a plug for the UV program into the program, too. In the interview, Sylvie stressed her career's wide scope: "It touches on a lot of things, it's not narrow. It deals with the environment,

air quality, all kinds of fields. It's evolving so it's challenging. You won't get bored." She particularly wanted to encourage young women to try meteorology: "I'm preaching by example, to show that there are women in science. I don't overemphasize it except to say that I'm here, so you can do it too."

Sylvie finds TV an effective promotional tool for one simple reason: "People relate to you easier if they can see you." Now back at Prairie Weather Centre after her Ontario stay, she plans to keep talking up her job: "If people can be positive about the job, they're good promoters. People are confused about meteorology so, by communicating with them, you can educate them. If you talk about your job enthusiastically and you're motivated, people say 'Hey, that's not a bad job!'"

With that assessment, we completely agree.

## Travelling light

John Gray wants you to see photographs from his last vacation.

But before you run screaming in anticipation of overexposed sunsets and unfocused shots of Aunt Madge at DisneyWorld, wait. This Atlantic Region Communications Officer specializes in portraits, catching a person's essence through the element of surprise.

John's "compulsion" is an outgrowth of long walks with his camera. He started 13 years ago photographing street scenes in Halifax. Since those treks, he's travelled around the world, photographing local people. From a Irish elder's creased grin to a loving Turkish family, he captures inner feelings that lesser photographers miss.

John's method: "I hover around, becoming invisible, trying to grab the

right expression. I don't use a telephoto lens so I have to get fairly close." This close contact creates near-misses. Take the two burly gentlemen who chased him down a dark Amsterdam alley when they caught him mid-photo. But most people are "almost charmed" to have their picture taken, John says. A mean-looking London biker caught him but happily, the tough guy grinned and raised a toast to our de-lighted photographer.

John needs people's response to his photographs - "To have them lying around doing nothing makes no sense." So in a burst of initiative, he assembled and promoted his own exhibit of travel portraits, "Travelling Light", at a Halifax art

gallery. Hundreds of people flocked to the well-received show. John's intensely personal approach to his subjects moved some attendees to tears.

Despite his accomplishments, John has only one tip for the budding portrait photographer: "Don't be shy." Could this be his motto?



*Three generations of women, Istanbul, Turkey (photograph by John Gray).*

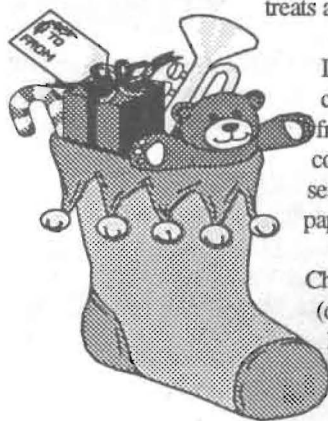


## Holiday stress busters

The festive season - a time of unbridled joy and peace to those of goodwill. Right? Well, not always. No holiday could possibly meet the expectations heaped on Christmas. There's pressure on people to do it all, make everyone happy and on top of it all, have a MEANINGFUL and MEMORABLE Christmas in the middle of tough times. Who can handle that much stress? With help from mental health professionals, including Employee Assistance Services, Zephyr offers the following handy tips on having happy, non-stressful holidays:

Forget the illusion of domestic bliss. Perfect relationships aren't going to materialize just because it's Christmas. Lower your expectations and don't blame yourself if your family isn't like those on TV sitcoms. Whose is?

If you typically exhaust yourself with preparations, delegate as much as possible. Let family members do some baking and card addressing. Also, if your family doesn't appreciate your fruitcakes or mincemeat, be daring and don't make them. You can get wonderful Yuletide treats at the grocery store.



Instead of giving expensive presents, consider a barter or coupon system. Exchange coupons for baby-sitting with friends who also have small children or give a shut-in a coupon for snow-shovelling. Gifts of yourself foster the true seasonal spirit. And coupons don't take much wrapping paper!

Christmas might be sad if you've recently suffered a loss (death, illness, divorce or separation). Don't expect the holidays to cheer you up automatically. If you're feeling bad, it's natural. Don't force yourself to feel jolly but if you do, consider it a holiday bonus.

In the December whirl of events, allot yourself some quiet time. Enjoying the outdoors - the stars, the wintry sky - is a particularly potent de-stresser.

Resist like crazy the impulse to overdo. "Too much" of everything can cause physical and psychological distress. It's a holiday, not a marathon!

Remember - plot your holiday strategy like a general in an all-out war. Then, you can relax and enjoy the warm and restful holiday season you richly deserve.

## Stump the experts!

Letters, we get letters. Last issue, you may recall that we ran a small story on the alarming incidence of male deaths in the U.S. from lightning strikes. In reply, we received this note from Richard Bill at the Department's Office of the Science Advisor in Hull, Québec:

"I'm told, and maybe you can confirm it, that on the Prairies in the old days, when the highest structures around were the sod huts with their chimneys sticking up, women (usually the cooks in those days) were killed by lightning striking the chimney, running into the stove and

anything/anybody nearby.

This is a rambling way of asking the following question: Is it true that the major cause of accidental death among women when the Prairies was first settled was lightning?"

Well, we have no idea. But our readers, a smart and savvy bunch, will answer that question in a snap. Perhaps a Central Region weather whiz? Or maybe a history buff?

We at "Zephyr" will look in our mailbox for an answer to this interesting query!

## AES and the Green Plan



### Alberta Weatheradio Partnership

Nov. 9, 1992 - Bob Porter, Medicine Hat MP, inaugurated the second jointly-funded Alberta Weatheradio service in this southeastern Alberta city. The City of Medicine Hat contributed funding and equipment and DOE added weather expertise. The City, which supplied radio transmitter and tower facilities, will use the system to provide instant environmental emergency warnings and Weatheradio information tailored for the Medicine Hat area.

### Trois-Rivières Weathercopy

Nov. 20, 1992 - An innovative service to provide citizens of Mauricie and Bois-Francs regions of Québec with up-to-date printed information on environmental and weather hazards was unveiled. The Weathercopy service is or will soon be available in some 15 regions of Canada.

### New Centre in Canada

Nov. 24, 1992 - Canada will be home to a new world data centre for UV radiation. The data centre will be used to store information on radiation levels recorded worldwide. The World Meteorological Organization asked DOE to establish the data centre because of the department's international reputation for its excellence in atmospheric scientific research and analysis.



## PS 2000

In recent years, pressures have been mounting on the federal administrative community to reduce costs and to improve support for program delivery. It was against this backdrop that the Council for Administrative Renewal (CAR) was established in November 1991 by senior executives in different administrative functional areas from the line departments, Treasury Board policy centres and common service agencies. CAR involves more than just efficiency measures; it represents a new approach to doing business in administration based on partnership and innovation.

The success of the administrative renewal effort depends on everybody getting involved. Some thirty projects are under way ranging from sharing of specific system applications to redesign of administrative processes in cross-functional areas.

The Council welcomes your participation and ideas. For information, contact Tony Chu, CAR Secretariat, tel: (613) 952-3366 or (fax) (613)952-8772.

## Awards, awards...

In Québec City, the 3rd annual International Festival of Scientific Film gave Environment Canada, Québec Region the prize for best corporate production for their video titled "Weather...day-to-day." Twice this year, the production team headed by Guy O'Bomsawin has won a prize.

### Innovation in Human Resource Management Award

In Ontario, to Deborah Doreen, HR Downs, on behalf of the group that organized "Aboriginal Awareness Day" October 8th, AES Downs.

### Citation of Excellence Award

In Central, to Eureka WO4 staff for initiative and motivation in displaying environmental stewardship during Environment Week 1992.

In Pacific, to Randy McCumsey for his efforts in authoring the excellent report "The Geography and Weather of Fort St. John and Surroundings".

To James Derham-Reid, Warren Green, Ronald McLaren and John Lockett, for

significant contributions to the establishment of the Regional Autostation Network (RAN).

**Ontario Region Awards of Excellence**  
To David Broadhurst, Cherry Lumilan and Jack DeCorby, for exceptional work during the implementation of Canada's UV Index Program.

### Suggestion Award

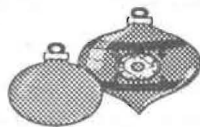
In Central, to Wayne Davidson, Resolute Bay WO4, for changing the dessicant in radiation instruments.

### 25 year service awards

In Central, to Gerry Gordanier at The Pas and Norm Nicholson at Broadview.

### "Pender's Pennies"

In Pacific, to Gayle Quatrocchi, Eric Taylor, Susan Magee, Kin Mak, Patricia Sweet, Al Wallace and Kim O'Connor for outstanding work.



## On the move...

### Assignment

Ahmad, K. to EG Wpg. Pool  
Beaubien, R. from MT Alta. WC to CFFC CFB Edmonton  
Berthiaume, L. from IAD to APDG Ottawa  
Côté, J.-G. from AIA Downs. to APDG Ottawa  
Egan, T. to APDG Ottawa  
Findlay, R. from Ont. Rd. Table to APDG Ottawa  
Funnell, L. from ADMA to APDG Ottawa  
Gregory, P. from MT to OPS Sup. CFFO CFB Greenwood  
Griffiths, M. from C&P to APEC Ottawa  
Henry, A.M. from Toronto to Env. Ass. MT Winnipeg  
Hornung, R. from FOE to APDG Ottawa  
Horwood, G. to DD Edmonton  
Massey, S. to EG Wpg. Pool  
McLellan, N. to EG Wpg. Pool  
Sylvestre, S. to SCY APDG Ottawa  
Urquhart, D. to EG Wpg. Pool

### Departure

Aziz, J. from Pers. Adv. AHRD

Black, G. from MT Edmonton to Gander  
Bowcott, A. from APDG Ottawa to CPG Hull

Forget, J. from SCY APDG Ottawa  
Kassian, L. from CR Edmonton  
McCarthy, K. from PE AES to NHW Edmonton

### Promotion

Alaie, G. to EG Wpg. Pool  
Cole, S. from CR to AS Vancouver  
Cormier, R. from MT Nameo to Edmonton  
Crowder, D. from P&B Clerk to Comp. Admin. Winnipeg  
Emond, L. from P&B Clerk to Comp. Admin. Winnipeg  
Graham, P. from SCY to SCY SSD/Lib. Winnipeg  
Hallett, R.S. to EG Cambridge Bay, NWT  
Little, K. from MT Edmonton to Kelowna  
McNeil, T.M. to EG Cambridge Bay, NWT  
Payette, M. to EG Wpg. Pool  
Sargeant, B. to EG Wpg. Pool  
Torgerson, M. from Met. Tech. Van. Pool to Met. Insp. Vancouver  
Waterfield, M. from Sup., P&B to HR Off. Winnipeg

### Retirement

Neale, D. from AS APDG Ottawa

### Transfer

Abel, K. from Comm. & Sys. Cont. to Oper. Tech. Winnipeg  
Bowkett, B. from MT Edmonton to Kelowna  
Legal, L. from Shift Sup. to Sc. MT Winnipeg

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