



Canada-China Joint Working Group meets

The fifth session of the Canada-China Joint Working Group met in China from October 12-25. The Group was established under a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperative Meteorological Matters, signed in 1986 and renewed in 1991. The MOU is due to expire towards the end of 1996 and the first item of business by correspondence was an agreement to extend it.

The Canadian delegation was headed by Gordon McBean and included Brian O'Donnell, David Grimes and Rai King of Policy, Program and International Affairs Branch. The host Chinese delegation was headed by Zou Jingmeng, Administrator of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) and immediate Past President of the World Meteorological Organization.

The formal sessions were held in Beijing and the hosts conducted tours and discussions at several national, regional and local CMA installations in Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai, including the National Meteorological Centre, the National Satellite Centre, the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, the National Climate Centre and many others. The visits provided a complete overview of the Chinese weather service. The most striking feature, according to Rai King, was the similarity in new directions and responses to resource problems faced by both Chinese and Canadian meteorological services.



AES Greenhouse Gas Misers shoulder the load: Rai King, Brian O'Donnell and David Grimes provide emission-free transport to Gordon McBean between meetings of the fifth session of the Canada-China Joint Working Group

Among the topics discussed in the session were mesoscale meteorology, autostations, modernization and management strategies, environmental monitoring, satellite meteorology and climate and climate change. A number of projects, studies, visits and workshops arose from the formal session, including a planned Workshop on Climate and Climate Change to be hosted by Canada in 1997.

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A t m o s p h e r i c E n v i r o n m e n t S e r v i c e

ZEPHYR

Winter 1996

Service
Through
Science



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada



ZEPHYR IN CYBERSPACE

THE FIRST ISSUE OF ZEPHYR ROLLED OFF THE PRESSES IN 1971, THE SAME YEAR ENVIRONMENT CANADA BECAME A DEPARTMENT AND AES OPENED ITS FLASHY NEW BUILDING IN DOWNSVIEW. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE BEEN WRITING, PRINTING AND MAILING OUT ALL THOSE PAPER COPIES PRACTICALLY NON-STOP. BUT IT IS NOW THE 1990S. WE ARE APPROACHING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY. THINGS ARE CHANGING. THE WORLD IS GOING ELECTRONIC. WE HAVE E-MAIL, THE GREEN LANE, ELECTRONIC "LISTSERV" DISCUSSION GROUPS, AND INTERNAL INTERNET SERVERS. WE ARE NOW THINKING THE UNTHINKABLE: ZEPHYR IN CYBERSPACE?

BUT BEFORE WE MAKE ANY RADICAL CHANGES, WE WANT TO ASK YOU, OUR FAITHFUL READERS, FOR YOUR OPINION. SHOULD ZEPHYR GO ELECTRONIC?

BUT FIRST, A WORD OF CAUTION: WE CAN'T DO BOTH. EITHER WE KEEP THE OLD PAPER ZEPHYR, OR WE GO COMPLETELY ELECTRONIC, WITH NO PAPER COPY AT ALL. WE JUST DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DO BOTH. THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGES TO CYBERSPACE: YOU WOULD GET YOUR NEWS A LOT FASTER, AS YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR US TO DO THE LAYOUT, PRINTING AND MAILING. WE WOULD BE "GREENER", SAVING TREES AND CREATING LESS WASTE. WE COULD EVEN HAVE COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DOWNSIDE? COULD EVERYONE ACCESS AN ELECTRONIC ZEPHYR? WHAT ABOUT OUR RETIREES WHO GET THEIR COPY IN THE MAIL? WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE BACK COPIES CAREFULLY FILED IN THE AES LIBRARY?

IF WE DO GO ELECTRONIC, HOW SHOULD WE MAKE ZEPHYR AVAILABLE? POST IT ON OUR INTERNAL SERVERS, OR SEND TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS BY E-MAIL?

WHAT DO YOU THINK? WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS, BEFORE WE LEAP INTO CYBERSPACE. YOU CAN REACH US HERE IN AES COMMUNICATIONS BY E-MAIL ON TEAMLINKS (AESCOMS@AM@AESTOR), INTERNET (AESCOMS@AESTOR.AM.DOE.CA), OR FAX (416) 739-4235.

THE ZEPHYR TEAM



Published by the Communications Directorate of Environment Canada, *Zephyr* is a newsletter for and about the staff of the Atmospheric Environment Program. Our mission is to provide quality service through science for the sustainable benefit of Canadians and our environment.

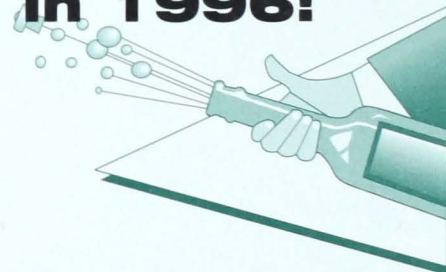
Zephyr is **your** newsletter. We would like to hear from you. Your submissions, story ideas, graphics and pictures are most welcome.

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Three anniversaries in 1996!

This year will mark two major milestones for our department: the 25th anniversary of Environment Canada and the 125th anniversary of weather services. Way back in 1871, only four years after Confederation, the Parliament of Canada gave \$5,000 to the observatory at the University of Toronto to establish a small network of weather observing stations. This marked the beginning of our national weather service. One hundred years later, in 1971, Environment Canada was born, in response to growing public concern about the environment. The new department was built from the former



Department of Fisheries and Forestry, with the addition of several key sectors from other parts of the government, including the Canadian Meteorological Service which was transferred from the Department of Transport. And the third anniversary? *Zephyr* will be 25 years old!



NO BUGS IN THIS SYSTEM

Pushing to improve automated weather stations, engineer Ken Wu found himself doing battle with swarming insects. "They just loved the precipitation sensor. Clouds of tiny flying insects swarmed all over it. So it was giving us reports of rain on sunny days."

No solution was in sight until the day when a grey, unpainted sensor was installed alongside insect-infested white ones. Surprisingly, the insects disdained the new colour and kept away.

Technician Yvonne Cook telephoned an entomologist and confirmed the insects' colour preference. Now all future precipitation sensors will be grey.

With creative solutions, perseverance and a bit of luck, engineers, scientists and technicians have significantly enhanced the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS, originally called READAC) in just one year.

These improvements are being tested in the AWOS Performance Evaluation, the most exhaustive field study of AWOS ever conducted. Final results are expected by summer.

Over four seasons, parallel human and AWOS observations are being collected 24 hours a day in a variety of Canadian climates. As well, the human observers are reviewing the AWOS reports and logging useful comments.



Members of the AWOS project team

Every day, the data go to a central computer in Downsview. Data analyst André Guiguère searches for patterns, while technical staff plot data to detect peculiarities, which are investigated immediately.

An independent auditor will check the validity of the study. AAPEG (Aviation AWOS Performance Evaluation Group) has reviewed 30 performance criteria and the test sites (airports at Inuvik, Terrace, Calgary, Yorkton, Dorval, Moncton and St. John's).

You can help. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions about AWOS, please share them with Mike Crowe — phone (416) 739-4115 or Teamlinks crowem@am@aestor.

AWOS ACTION PLAN

- OBJECTIVE: TO ENSURE AWOS MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE AVIATION COMMUNITY AND OTHER CLIENTS.
- MEASURES INCLUDE:
 - A MORATORIUM ON COMMISSIONING FURTHER AWOS UNITS UNTIL THE SYSTEM MEETS AVIATION NEEDS;
 - THE AWOS PERFORMANCE EVALUATION;
 - EDUCATION AND CONSULTATION WITH AWOS USERS.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- ENVIRONMENT CANADA BEGAN AUTOMATING WEATHER OBSERVING IN THE 1960S.
- TODAY, OVER 84 PER CENT OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS COME FROM AUTOMATED EQUIPMENT.
- AWOS (AUTOMATED WEATHER OBSERVATION SYSTEM) IS INSTALLED AT MORE THAN 60 AIRPORTS ACROSS CANADA.

Eye in the sky

After several nerve-wracking delays, RADARSAT, an advanced earth satellite project developed by Canada to monitor environmental change and to support resource sustainability, was finally launched November 4 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The RADARSAT project is led by the Canadian Space Agency and is supported by strong industry, provincial government and international partnerships.

Canada is responsible for the design and integration of the overall system, for its control and operation in orbit and for the operation of the data reception and processing stations located in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and Gatineau, Quebec.

RADARSAT will be an important and cost-effective source of environmental and resource information worldwide. It will provide the

first routine surveillance of the entire Arctic region, regardless of weather conditions. The Ice Services Branch plans to replace ice observations from an aircraft, saving \$24 million over five years. In the words of Bruce Ramsay, who has been immersed in the RADARSAT project for years, "We are ushering in a new era in ice monitoring."

For more information, visit the RADARSAT home page at <http://radarsat.space.gc.ca/> or <http://radarsat.espace.gc.ca/>



WEATHER BIG HIT ON THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY

"Over two million served," said Andrew Hunt proudly. No, he's not talking about hamburgers, but rather the huge success of the Atmospheric Environment Service on the Internet. Andrew, of Informatics Branch in Downsview, has launched AES onto the information highway in a big way.

Since 1994, over two million users from more than 50 countries have logged onto the Downsview site on the Internet. An average of 15,000 requests for information are received each day, at the rate of 600 per hour. Atmospheric information has proved to be a popular item for Environment Canada on the Internet.

By far most the most popular item is the daily public weather forecast. Other heavily requested products include the "newspaper" style weather maps, the satellite photos and the climate information. During severe weather, the site is very heavily used. In October, during Hurricane Opal, requests for information soared to over 17,000 per day.

The AES Downsview Internet site grew from weather forecasts posted on a small electronic bulletin board service started in 1993. The response was very positive, and in June 1994, the server was connected to the Internet, to bring weather information to a wider audience. "Our main concern was that people using the Internet had to go to the U.S. to get Canadian weather forecasts. That just wasn't right. I wanted Canadian weather forecasts to be available from Canadian sources," Andrew said.

About a year after Andrew launched the Downsview server, an Internet site was created for the department in Ottawa. Known as the "Green Lane", it has become Environment Canada's state-of-the-art way of distributing information to the public. The departmental site was quickly linked to Downsview, as well as regional sites across the country. Internet users could move freely between the sites, and huge numbers headed directly to Downsview.

"It's been a very popular site, and rewarding too," said Andrew. "We get a lot of positive comments from our users."

Originally the Downsview site contained only the daily weather forecasts, which Andrew loads directly from the Canadian Meteorological Centre in Montreal. Now information is posted by over 20 areas in AES, and you can find items on atmospheric research, climate trends, Weatheradio, satellite photos, as well as fact sheets and news releases — a full menu of AES products. Would you like fries with that?

Andrew Hunt is a senior client support consultant and is the system administrator of the Green Lane and other Internet servers in Downsview. He works for the Informatics Branch of Canadian Meteorological Centre and can be reached by e-mail at ahunt@dow.on.doe.ca. Visit our Downsview site at <http://www.on.doe.ca/>

Climate Services: Getting down to business

Anna Deputch-Stapf

After a year of teleconferencing, the Climate Services Coordination Group (CSCG) met face-to-face in Downsview on November 22 and 23, for the first National Climate Services Workshop.

Linda Stirling, Director of Climate and Water Information Branch welcomed participants and Nancy Cutler, Director General National Weather Services Directorate shared the vision of AEP commercial services.

Bruce Hertz, a consultant from Harcourt Matthews Group (HMG), kicked off the workshop with a series break-out sessions that targetted the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats surrounding the marketing of Climate Services.

Day 2 was devoted to the key ingredients that make-up Climate Services: ATIS-CAP, sales of Monthly Meteorological Summaries, engineering climate data sets and placing a Climate and Water Catalogue on DOE's Green Lane. But probably the most educational and enjoyable sessions were the success (or horror!) stories by Larry Flysak and a show and tell session to highlight regional ventures.

All and all, the workshop was an excellent mechanism for discussing and resolving a variety of national issues. These two active days of showing, discussing and sharing experiences in providing climate services were very useful.



METPRESS TAKES THE NEWSTAND BY STORM

Environment Canada employees have made great creative and cooperative efforts in delivering MetPRESS services to the media over the past few months. Among the highlights:

- *Environment Canada a headliner in Canada's national newspaper*

Beginning September 19, *The Globe and Mail's* weather page became a lot more informative and eye-catching, featuring graphics and text produced by Environment Canada. *The Globe and Mail* had the good sense to approach the experts when they wanted to improve the presentation of weather information in their paper.

The Globe and Mail effort involved very productive teamwork between the Commercial Services Units from Ontario and Pacific and Yukon Regions. Together, they worked to design a weather package that was tailored to meet *The Globe and Mail's* need for a sophisticated national and regional weather map.

Pacific and Yukon staff, with their MetPress expertise, were able to produce a Forecast Production Assistant state-of-the-art weather map highlighting isobars, weather fronts and precipitation, with accompanying weather information from across Canada and the world.

- *Sing Tao Daily carries Environment Canada weather graphics*

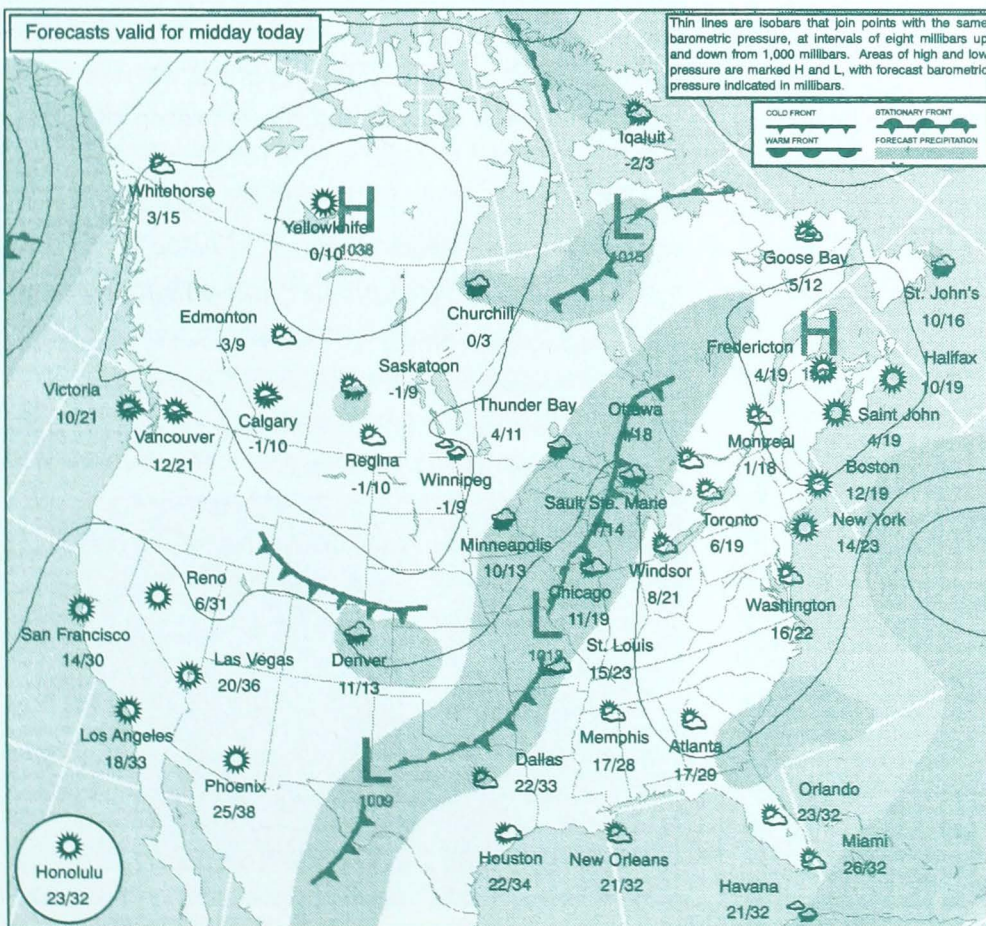
The *Sing Tao Daily* (Vancouver) published an Environment Canada MetPRESS product for the first time on Monday October 16th. This is an entirely new and unique MetPRESS product with the EC information delivered entirely in Cantonese.

The *Sing Tao Daily* publishes 7 mornings a week with a circulation of 30,000+. Sing Tao is the leading Chinese newspaper serving the more than 250,000 ethnic Chinese in the Vancouver market. The entire publication is in Cantonese except for the Environment Canada logo, the

English WeatherPhone numbers and the 1-900 advertisement.

This commercial product brings EC information and services to a marketplace that we have been unable to service in the past. An automated method utilizing new technologies enables EC to provide this specialized service to the Cantonese population on a cost recovery basis.

Bringing the Sing Tao MetPRESS to the production stage has been a challenging undertaking involving the key talents of a number of EC personnel in the production unit of the Pacific Weather Centre. Special recognition goes out to media star Cecilia Chang for her dedication to bringing forth a new initiative, Rick Drouillard for his technical expertise and Dick Boak for his artistic input.



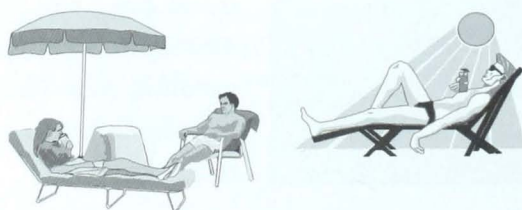
The summer of '95: a hot, hot time for climate change

A media backgrounder on the extraordinary weather during the summer of '95 received unprecedented media coverage, providing wide exposure for the climate change issue, thanks to the concerted cooperative efforts of weather and climate experts in Downsview and the regions.

Climate change is a key issue for Environment Canada and the Department is engaged in a campaign to convince the provinces, industry, other government departments that our international commitment to stabilize carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000 must be met. Public awareness and support is crucial to moving forward environmental issues, and Environment Canada has been seeking out ways to make climate change real to Canadians.

In the Atmospheric Environment Service, a Climate Change Contact Group was formed in the summer to share information and provide a focal point to discuss climate change ideas/activities as well as keeping abreast of climate change issues in the Environmental Protection and Environmental Conservation services. One of the group's first ideas involved an end-of-the-summer survey of temperature trends and extreme weather events, posing the question "could there be linkages with climate change?"

David Phillips, our weather guru, was asked to write a media backgrounder outlining the summer's weather. To prepare the piece, David undertook wide-ranging consultations throughout the Atmospheric Environment Program (AEP), and found that people were "incredibly helpful." Cooperation was the key at all stages in the preparation of the piece — scientific services staff provided advice on linking anomalous summer weather and climate change; weather and climate experts throughout AEP supplied statistics and anecdotal information; AEP and Communications reviewers pored over the text and regional staff helped provide the crucial local or regional angle prior to the more than 50 media interviews done by spokespersons David Phillips and Henry Hengeveld.



THE RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

A chance to learn something new every day!

THE POPULAR ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES RESUMED IN JANUARY WITH YET ANOTHER IMPRESSIVE LINE-UP OF SPEAKERS. SEVERAL PROMINENT SCIENTISTS AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS ARE SCHEDULED TO GIVE PRESENTATIONS ON TOPICS RANGING FROM THE USE OF SATELLITE DATA IN CLIMATE STUDIES TO MODELLING BLOWING SNOW. ALSO ON THE AGENDA IS A SPECIAL FOUR-PART SERIES ON THE LINKAGES BETWEEN CURRENT ATMOSPHERIC CHANGE ISSUES, NAMELY AIR TOXICS, TROPOSPHERIC OXIDANTS, STRATOSPHERIC OZONE AND BIODIVERSITY. THIS "MINI SERIES," WHICH WILL FEATURE PRESENTATIONS FROM AES'S OWN RAY HOFF AND JAN BOTTENHEIM, IS A CONTINUATION OF A SIMILAR SERIES HELD LAST FALL THAT DREW RECORD ATTENDANCE.

"THE SEMINARS OFFER A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT," SAYS SERIES COORDINATOR STEWART COBER. "THEY ALLOW SCIENTISTS TO MAINTAIN FAMILIARITY WITH TOPICS THAT THEY DON'T WORK WITH ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS." FOR THE PRESENTERS, THE SEMINARS ALSO PROVIDE A GOOD FORUM TO SHOW NEW ANALYSES PRIOR TO PUBLICATION, AND TO RECEIVE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM FROM PEERS.

ALTHOUGH THE SEMINARS ARE AIMED PRIMARILY AT THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY, ALL STAFF ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. AS COBER EXPLAINS: "THE SEMINARS ARE AN EXCELLENT WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT PEOPLE IN OTHER DIVISIONS ARE DOING, WHICH HELPS FOSTER GREATER COOPERATION."

SPONSORED BY THE CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH DIRECTORATE, THE SEMINARS TAKE PLACE EVERY TUESDAY AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE DOWNSVIEW AUDITORIUM (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED). SCHEDULES ARE POSTED THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING AND ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT STEWART COBER AT 416-739-4618 OR COBERS@AESTOR.AM.DOE.CA.

FOG WATER COMES TO ECUADOR

In a small village on the arid slopes of the high Andes of Ecuador, the only source of water was once a few distant wells. The villagers, along with their livestock and crops, often suffered from severe shortages of water. Fifteen thousand litres of clean water now flow down the mountain to the village each day, thanks to the fog water collecting system developed by Dr. Robert Schemenauer of CARD (Climate and Atmospheric Research Directorate).

Based on his experience collecting acid fog in the mountains of Quebec, Robert perfected a system of plastic netting which captures fog droplets and funnels the water into holding tanks and pipes. He began using his fog water collection techniques to help developing countries in 1987, with a project in Chile, where the coastal mountains are constantly shrouded in fog, but receive little rain.

The technique proved to be very successful, and the program has expanded to a second site in Chile, five in Peru, and now a new operation in Ecuador. In Ecuador, the nets were erected around the rim of an old volcanic crater, and the water piped 3 km to the village. Funding for this project was provided by CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency).

"Fog water is ideal for these areas - it is a simple, low-tech system which provides a sustainable supply of clean water," said Robert.

He is particularly proud of his next project in Ecuador, which will be a true example of people helping people on the community level. Three ranchers in British Columbia are providing \$50,000, which will cover half the cost of the

construction of the water system. Jean, Joe and Paul Baehr raise 200 head of cattle in central B.C. They understand what water means to those who make their living off the land. The remainder of the funds for the project will come from a non-government organization in Montreal, the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Co-operation. The initial feasibility study was financed by IDRC (International Development Research Centre).

The B.C. ranchers are helping bring water to a village of 250 native people living in the high Andes, at 3,700 m above sea level. Here, people and livestock must rely on a small muddy ditch as their sole source of water. Clean water must be purchased, but the village can only afford to buy 120 L per week (less than 1/2 L per person). Upon completion, the B.C. ranchers are planning to visit the Ecuadorian village and celebrate the new water system.

As word of his work spreads, interest in fog water projects has been expressed worldwide, including China, Africa, the Philippines and even California. Robert is now teaching others the secrets of his success, and acting more in an advisory capacity. "This is certainly a very satisfying application of meteorology and cloud physics," he states.



Waiting for water: native villagers in the remote mountains of Ecuador will soon benefit from fog water.



Nets of plastic mesh collect fog droplets.



MAKE YOUR CONNECTION

Since July 1995, staff have been exchanging opinions and information through a new electronic discussion forum known as the Connections Listserver. The process by which this forum operates is simple: participants send a message to a designated e-mail address, and the computer automatically re-transmits their

message to everybody who is subscribed to the discussion. To comment on a message, participants can either reply directly to its sender, or send their response to the listserver itself for all to see.

The listserver is the brainchild of Jean Charest and Christine Best. What made them come up with the idea? As Christine explains: "Last spring, Jean and I were looking for ways to improve

communications amongst Environment Canada employees affected by Program Review. Having had experience with other listservers, we both realized that this could be an efficient way to connect people."

The two submitted a detailed proposal to Gordon McBean, ADM AES, who approved the project almost immediately. Jean used his computer knowledge, and with the help of Alain St. Denis at the Canadian Meteorological Centre, got the list up and running. A technical expert was brought in to develop and test the system, and on June 30, 1995, the Connections Listserver was ready for business! As word of the listserv got out over the next few days, over 200 employees subscribed. Since then, the number of participants has remained steady at around 250.

Discussions on the listserver have covered a wide range of topics: Program Review, commercialization, job opportunities, the future of weather services and the public service, even the Québec referendum. Needless to say, there has been some lively debate!

Jean and Christine monitor the discussions to make sure everyone sticks to the ground rules, namely: 1) rumours are not be presented as fact; 2) the forum is not to be used to "bash" other people.

To subscribe to the Connections Listserv, simply send a message to majordomo@cmc.doe.ca@igw. In the body of the message type: subscribe connections. An introductory message will be sent to you automatically.

For more information, contact Christine Best (Teamlinks BESTC@AM@AESTOR) or Jean Charest (CHARESTJ@AM@AESOTT).

net.speak

HAVING TROUBLE DECIPHERING YOUR E-MAIL MESSAGES? BLAME THE RECENT TREND TOWARDS USING ACRONYMS AND "SMILEYS" AS SHORTCUTS FOR POPULAR PHRASES AND EMOTIONAL STATES. HERE'S A QUICK GUIDE TO TODAY'S MOST COMMON NET.SPEAK TERMS:

AFAIK:	AS FAR AS I KNOW
BTW:	BY THE WAY
F2F:	FACE TO FACE
HTH:	HOPE THIS HELPS
IMHO:	IN MY HUMBLE OPINION.
ROTFL:	ROLLING ON THE FLOOR LAUGHING
RTM:	READ THE MANUAL
TANSTAAFL:	THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH
TLA:	THREE LETTER ACRONYM
TFN:	TA TA FOR NOW

:~) A BASIC SMILEY. USED TO INFLECT A SARCASTIC OR JOKING STATEMENT.

:~) WINKY SMILEY. MORE OF A "DON'T HIT ME FOR WHAT I JUST SAID" SMILEY.

:-(FROWNING SMILEY. USER DISLIKED A STATEMENT OR IS UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING.

:~| INDIFFERENT SMILEY. BETTER THAN A :-(BUT NOT QUITE AS GOOD AS A :~).

:~> USER JUST MADE A REALLY BITING SARCASTIC REMARK. WORSE THAN A :~).

%~) USER HAS BEEN STARING AT A GREEN SCREEN FOR 15 HOURS STRAIGHT.

:~D USER IS LAUGHING (AT YOU!)

:~X USER'S LIPS ARE SEALED.

:~C USER IS REALLY BUMMED.

ZEPHYR DAYTIMER

LOOK FOR THESE EVENTS IN THE COMING YEAR...

• **ADVANTAGE 900 SERVICE:** AT YOUR SERVICE COAST-TO-COAST! COMING SOON - A NATIONAL WINDOW FOR ACCESSING AEP'S SUITE OF 900 TELEPHONE SERVICES! THAT MEANS CANADIANS WILL NOW HAVE ONE NUMBER TO CALL TO REACH OUR LIVE CONSULTATION LINE, WEATHER ONE ON ONE, AND ANOTHER FOR OUR SPECIALIZED FORECASTS ON WEATHERMENU. AS BRYAN JENSEN OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES IN PACIFIC AND YUKON REGION EXPLAINS, "WITH 1-900... WE ACTUALLY HAVE OPTIONS FOR ENHANCING SERVICES." A 1-900 WORKING GROUP IS WORKING FURIOUSLY TO HAVE THE IMPROVED SERVICE UP AND RUNNING IN THE COMING YEAR.

• **WEATHER CRAWLERS TO BE PUT TO THE TEST...** AN INITIATIVE TO PRODUCE WEATHER WARNINGS AS TELEVISION CRAWLERS HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS SINCE 1991. FIVE YEARS LATER, THE PROJECT IS SET TO ENTER ITS FIRST ROUND OF PILOT TESTING! CABLE SUBSCRIBERS IN NORTH YORK, ONTARIO WILL BE THE INITIAL EVALUATORS OF THE SYSTEM. TEST MESSAGES ARE SET TO SCROLL ALONG THEIR TELEVISION SETS EARLY THIS YEAR. TO FOLLOW-UP, AN INTENSIVE EVALUATION WILL BE COMPLETED TO DETERMINE THE PROJECT'S FUTURE DIRECTION. STAY TUNED!



YOUR GUIDE TO DECISION-MAKING IN THE AEP

To help deliver environmental services in a more strategic and results-oriented way, the management structure of the Department and of the AEP has been re-designed. So there are some new terms to learn. Here's your reference guide to the decision-making bodies in the AEP:

- *The top level decision-making body in the AEP is Atmospheric Environment Policy Committee (APC).*

This committee advises the ADM-AES on the formulation of policy for the Atmospheric Environment activity of Environment Canada. The committee is comprised of the: ADM-AES, Regional Directors General (RDG), National Directors General (NDG) and the Director of Policy, Program and International Affairs (PPIB).

- *Program management is provided by the ADM-AES through Atmospheric Environment Program Management Committee (AMC).*
AMC advises the ADM-AES on program decisions related to the AEP. It includes the: ADM-AES, EC Regional Directors with lead responsibilities for regional components of the AEP, NDGs, Director of PPIB, Advisors on Communication, Finance and Human Resources, and DG MetOc.
- *AMC is responsible for and supported by four program activity Tables.*
Where in-depth discussion is needed, regional and HQ expertise required,

and where national consensus on financial, policy or broad program issues must be reached, that's the job for a Table. A NDG from the AEP management team is responsible for the output of each table and is the communication link between AMC and the Table. This NDG provides the objectives and communicates the desired results for his/her Table. The Table has the authority to plan, implement and control all their work and has a clearly defined responsibility for obtaining its objectives and results.

- *The four activity Tables of the AEP are:*

Production Table

The Table is responsible for the production and services delivery infrastructure and issues.

Monitoring Table

Its areas of responsibility include monitoring, data management and informatics infrastructure and issues.

Capital Review Board

Is responsible for investment strategies and management of major capital.

Human Resources Table

This Table provides guidance on national human resources issues related to the AEP.

AES staff reveal hidden talents

The mood was decidedly festive last December 15 in Downsview as AES staff were treated to a rare pre-Christmas spectacle: the R.A. Talent Show! Sponsored by the Recreation Association, the show featured over 30 budding artists who performed for an enthusiastic crowd in the auditorium. Some of the highlights included:

- A beautiful rendition of "The Christmas Song" by resident pop star George St. Kitts — his smooth vocals were enough to put even Scrooge in the holiday spirit.
- A cameo appearance by security guard Jim Creighton, who wouldn't let Santa Claus on the Starship

Enterprise without signing in, in the spacey sci-fi skit "Star Trek Meets Santa."

- An ode to red wigglers (composting worms) written and performed by Gary Grieco ("It's Only Worms" sung soulfully to the tune of the Bee Gees' "It's Only Words".)
- An unforgettable ballet duet was performed by the Maple Syrup Fairy and her Budding Prince (a.k.a. Candi Zell — in a pink tutu — and Phil Merilees in tights!)

There were many more great acts that are too numerous to mention. Many thanks to Gary Grieco for organizing the show and to all those who displayed their unique and unexpected talents. Today Downsview, tomorrow Hollywood!



Retirement certificates

P.M. GILLES COLOMBE
 PHILIP COTÉ
 TOM CUTLER
 KEN DALY
 MARCEL DEBELLEFEUILLE
 BRUCE FINDLAY
 GERRY FRENCH
 RACHEL GOLDWASSER
 JANE GRAVES
 MYRNA HEADLEY
 ROBERT HOOGERBRUG
 RONALD HOUGHTON
 MAREN KAUER
 MIECZYSLAW KROL
 JANINA KULIK
 JOHN LADE
 STEVE LANDSBERG
 GORD LEBLANC
 PETER LEGROW
 RICHARD LINE

WEI-LI YU
 Y. MAROUKA
 EVONNA MATHIS
 ZAVIE MILLER
 DAVE MUDRY
 TERRY MULLANE
 KEITH MUNN
 KEN OIKAWA
 M. OLSEN
 WALTER PEARCE
 RICHARD POERSCHKE
 MEL PROUT
 FRED RICHARDSON
 RUDOLPH SALEWSKI
 BRUCE SWITZER
 GILLES TARDIF
 LEE TRIPP
 ADRIAN VAN DE MOSSELAER
 EILEEN VEINOT

25-year plaques

TERRANCE ALLSOPP
 NORMAN BARBER
 SUSAN FALLA
 SERGE FILLION
 MICHAEL LEDUC
 HERSCHEL MITCHELL
 PIERRE PAUL

Citation of excellence

RAI KING

Merit award

WILLIAM HART
 MICHEL VALIN

BEV BUCKS

The "Bev Bucks Incentive Award Program", named in honour of the late Bev Burns, recognizes the achievements of employees in Prairie and Northern Region who: promote the greening of Environment Canada or government in general; donate their personal time to sustainable development or environmental education outside regular working hours; help make the region more efficient or effective; or demonstrate innovation and creativity in the delivery of Environment Canada's programs.

Two employees of the Arctic Weather Centre (ArWC) in Edmonton, Andrew Giles and Michael Webber, have received \$500 in Bev Bucks.

Michael earned his award for developing software routines that improve the efficiency of the office by combining shift scheduling and reporting. He also updated many of the office verification routines and made several suggestions to help reduce the amount of paper products being generated in the office.

Among Andrew's many achievements are: producing an ArWC home page in Mosaic, developing a routine to download satellite photos to the Fairbanks forecast office, creating the ArWC monthly climate newsletter, and developing more efficient methods to display all CMC products in a softcopy format. Andrew also acts as the region's liaison meteorologist with the Canadian Meteorological Centre. Most of his work has been undertaken on his own time — whenever he has seen a need for something to be improved upon, he goes ahead and improves it!

"Visionary" honoured by Jim Bruce Award

Each year, the Jim Bruce Achievement Award honours an individual for an outstanding contribution to the Atmospheric Environment Program. In a ceremony held in Downsview on December 20, the Jim Bruce Achievement Award for 1994 was awarded posthumously to Roger Van Cauwenberghe.

At the ceremony, ADM Gordon McBean described Roger as "a visionary who combined his broad spectrum of knowledge with a strong sense of what was practical and feasible."

Roger joined AES in 1971 and made significant contributions to many of AES' challenging tasks, e.g. development of ice

accretion, visibility, and present weather sensors. His leadership skills, integrity and willingness to help others prompted the World Meteorological Organization to invite Canada to co-host the First Present Weather Sensor/Systems Intercomparison in the winter of 1994-95. Through Roger's inspiration and hard work, AEP was able to modernize its data collection activities while maintaining high quality standards.

During the training sessions that he led in his home last spring, Roger continued to freely share his concepts, vision and advice for the future. Roger's passing in May 1995 was a great loss to his colleagues both inside and outside the organization.

