



OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INC.

# RAMBLER

VOLUME 42

NUMBER 5

DECEMBER, 1997

## You're In For A Real Treat

The Club's December meeting will be the OVMRC's social highlight of the year - a Variety Night and a Christmas Social all rolled into one. Members are in for a real treat as Variety Night Chairman Ken Barry has been able to "book" the internationally renowned award winning Capital City Chordettes. This barber shop singing group has been performing to sold out houses everywhere they appear and they will be appearing on the stage at the Museum of Science and Technology and singing many of their award winning songs for us.. The Chordettes will be supported by other local entertainers.

And a reminder, this is an open house evening to which your spouse, girl or boy friend is cordially invited.

Also please remember to bring a plate of home baking for Anne's goodie table after the entertainment. Anne would appreciate if you brought your home baking on a paper plate as it saves the worry of returning china to rightful owners and/or accidental breakage. Anne would welcome a plate of cookies, squares, muffins, cake, cheese and crackers, etc.

## Christmas Morning Wise Owl Net

A reminder to all amateurs, there will be the annual Christmas morning special edition of the Wise Owl Net starting at 9:30am. It is your opportunity to extend season's greetings to your fellow amateurs. The net will run for approximately one hour. Once again, Sidney has agreed to act as Net Controller, a function he has carried out for the past several years.

Mark it on your calendar now as a reminder Christmas morning to join in the fun on this very special edition of the Wise Owl Net.

## Come To The Meetings Earlier

It seems the Membership Chairman and those who assist him at the check in desk at our regular meetings are being penalized by those of you who arrive at our meetings at the very last minute. Members arriving at the last minute have meant that those working the

check in desk must remain outside the auditorium thus missing the first portion of the meeting

Commencing with our December meeting, the check in desk will officially close at 7:25 thus giving membership workers an opportunity to finish their work in time to enjoy a full meeting.

Members arriving after the check in desk is closed will be admitted to the meetings but will not receive a door prize ticket.

So please, help solve a problem come to our meeting just a little bit earlier!

## Field Day Volunteers Needed

There is snow on the ground and the temperature is below zero but, nonetheless, Tom Johnson, VE3WTJ, Field Day Chairman, is looking for volunteers to help in the organization and operation of Field Day next June. Tom is looking to establish a list of volunteer operators, both cw and phone, who would like to be a part of this annual event. If you would like to volunteer and reserve a time slot in the cw or phone tents, please contact Tom Johnson at 225-3791.

*To One and All...*

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.

# RAMBLER

The Rambler is published monthly by:

The OVMRC  
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## The 1997-1998 OVMRC Executive

President	Dan Reardon, VE3GUU, 836-2633
Vice-President	Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, 731-6749
Treasurer	Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, 728-3666
Secretary	Earl Andrews, VE3AB, 828-5955

## Standing Committee Chairpersons

(First named member is Committee Chairperson)

Amateur Radio Exhibit	Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, 839-5854
Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VESUY, 737-9443
Field Day	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ, 225-6785
Historical	Tom Johnson, VA3WTJ, 225-3791
Flea Market	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 747-5565
Membership	Ken Barry, VE3KJB, 746-4823
Newsletter	John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV, 521-8910
Publicity & Programs	Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD, 747-9577
Technical	Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214
Radio Operations	Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG, 833-2766
Novice	Dan Johnston, VA3JAR, 523-8411
	Phil St. Germain,
	Jake Guertin, VE2TQX, 721-9323
	Joe Donnelly, VA3JJD, 488-3299

## OVMRC Life Members

Ralph Cameron	VE3BBM
Doug Carswell	VE3ATY
Gerry King	VE3GK
Fred Noble	VE3BAJ
Bill Wilson	VE3NR

Practise your CW with the OVMRC Code phone -  
737- 0197

Check the OVMRC Web page:

<http://www.takeone.com/public/ovmrc.htm>

Webmaster - John Rodger, VE3JR

[Jrodger@takeone.com](mailto:Jrodger@takeone.com)

*The OVMRC gratefully acknowledge the support of the Corel Corporation in producing the Rambler*

Mark Your Calendar !

Next General Meeting:

Thursday, December 18th, 1997

A Club highlight meeting....Variety Night and Christmas Social. Variety Night will feature Canada's premier barber shop singers, internationally renowned award winning Capital City Cordettes. In addition, there will be other supporting entertainment. Bring your spouse, bring your adult children, and enjoy a superb evening of entertainment followed by Christmas refreshments.

Deadline for the next Rambler:

Friday, December 26th, 1997

OVMRC's Repeaters:

VE3TWO: 147.300MHz (+)  
444.200MHz (+)

## Affiliated Clubs

The OVMRC is pleased to exchange newsletters with the following Amateur Radio Clubs across Canada and the U.S.A.

Algoma ARC, Sault Ste Marie, ON  
Augusta ARA, Augusta, ME, USA  
Border City ARA, Windsor, ON  
Chatham-Kent ARC, Chatham, ON  
Calgary ARC, Calgary, AB  
Comox Valley ARC, Comox, BC  
Halifax ARC, Halifax, NS  
Heritage ARC, Coburg, ON  
Kingston ARC, Kingston, ON  
Lambton County ARC, Sarnia, ON  
London ARC, London, ON  
Metroplex ACA, New York, NY, USA  
Ottawa ARC, Ottawa, ON  
Pioneer ARC, Nepean, ON  
RAC, Ottawa, ON  
Rideau Lakes ARC, Smiths Falls, ON  
Scarborough ARC, Scarborough, ON  
Seaway Valley ARC, Cornwall, ON  
Sudbury ARC, Sudbury, ON  
Surey ARC, Surey, BC  
Saskatoon ARC, Saskatoon, SK  
Thousand Island ARC, Brockville, ON  
West Island ARC, Dorval, PQ  
Winnipeg ARC, Winnipeg, MAN

## Sponsors

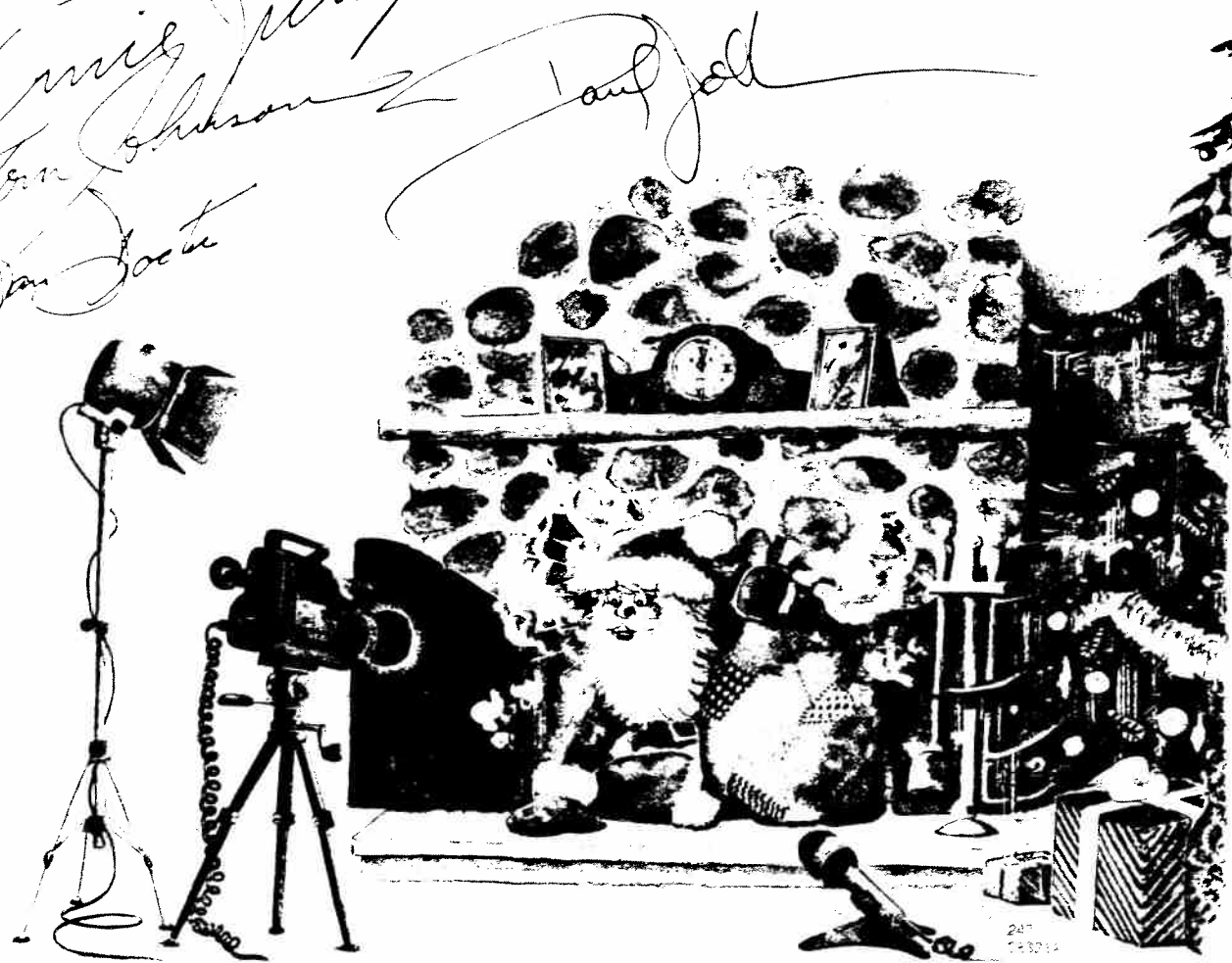
The OVMRC acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities by providing them with courtesy copies of the Rambler:

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON  
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON  
Corel Corporation, Ottawa, ON  
Information Gateway Services  
TakeOne Info System

To Each and Everyone....

Merry Christmas  
and  
A Happy New Year

Don't know  
Den Barry  
717 Bilt  
Hoppers of the  
Earl Andrews  
Ernie Perry  
Tom Johnson  
Tom Doct  
Tom St Julian  
Joseph Donnelly  
Steve Middleton  
Larry Viles  
Bob Shaw  
Paul Jell



# Rambblings

## Comments from our President, Dan Reardon, VE3GUU

.As most of you know, Jerry Wells became a silent key on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1997. In the short few years that I had the privilege to work with and get to know him, Jerry certainly made an impression on me as well as many other amateurs. As many Hams know, Jerry would always go out of his way to help another amateur. As President of the OVMRC I count myself very fortunate that I had the opportunity last June to present Jerry with the OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award.

I am sure you will be please to know that the Executive, in a move to recognize Jerry's contribution to Amateur Radio and perpetuate his name, have agreed to call the Amateur of the Year Award the Jerry Wells Award. It was further agreed that because Jerry's forte was cw, part of the award will be a first class CW Key.

It's also time to make up a Christmas "wish list" so your better half and family members know what you want to find under the tree Christmas mom. If you are not sure of what you want may I suggest you check the pages of the Canadian Amateur magazine...you'll be amazed at what you'll be able to find. I must congratulate Ziggy, VE3JDA, for a most interesting presentation on QRP. Not only was the demonstration on how to send with low power and get results impressive, but his

explanation of what to expect when you're using a QRP rig was excellent. If anyone would like any further information on QRP, I am sure Ziggy would be more than happy to help you.

I would like to request that the membership arrive at our meetings a somewhat earlier. We start our meetings at 7:30 and our colleagues that check you in and distribute door prize tickets also want to be at the meetings. In future they will stop taking check ins at 7:25. If you arrive late you will not receive a door prize ticket!

I was really pleased to see our members stepping forward and offering to help where it is required. Susan, VE3MOG has volunteered to "back up" our Secretary when he cannot get to our meetings. Susan has also volunteered to help out on a Special Event Station. Fernando, VE3MOZ, a relatively new member of the Club, has volunteered to not only help out at a Special Event Station but to also to help out at VE3JW. Thanks to both of you for offering to help ! We still require more help for the Special Event Station - so PLEASE don't be shy, step up and offer your help too.

Speaking of Special Event Stations, I am pleased to report that the organizers of the Tulip Festival were most receptive when approached about our having a Special Event Station tie-in with their festival. Members of your

Executive will be approaching the management of the Steam Train to Wakefield to ascertain whether the OVMRC can establish a mobile Special Event Station on its train. And finally, the organizers of the Boat Flotilla held on the canal each spring will be approached to ascertain their interest in having the OVMRC participate in their event. We will keep you advised on progress on these projects. Needless to point out, the only way we can participate in the foregoing projects is with your help. It is important that if you would like to be a part of any of the Special Event Stations I have mentioned, please volunteer now, let us know that we have the qualified operator to operate on HF or VHF. I again remind you....this is your Club. You will only get out of the Club what you are prepared to put into it !

I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you and your family a most enjoyable, safe and peaceful holiday season. From my wife Fran and myself A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year, 1998 from my house to your's.

# MINUTES

## OVMRC Regular Meeting, November 20th, 1997

President Dan, VE3GUU, called the meeting to order at 1938 hours. Guests present and welcomed were Jason, VA3TGF, Arthur, VA3BIT and VA3PUR.

President Dan announced that Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, became a silent key on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1997. He recounted some of Jerry's accomplishments and announced that he would be recommending to the Executive that the Amateur of the Year Award be called the Jerry Wells Award and that a CW straight key be a part of the award. This was heartily endorsed by the membership. Dan also announced that Ralph Cameron is preparing an article on Jerry for TCA.

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, spoke on behalf of Doug Carswell who was unable to be at the meeting. Doug had been working with Jerry Wells in the management of VE3JW. However, Doug was not aware of Jerry's development plans for the station and asked that if any member knew of Jerry's plans to contact him. Ernie pointed out that Doug required assistance in operating VE3JW and asked that volunteers contact the Executive.

Dan announced that the Ottawa Vintage Radio Club were interested in conducting auctions at our Flea Market in May/98. Dan suggested how the auctions could be used to

enhance the Flea Market and engender patron interest.

Dan also announced that Susan, VE3MOG had volunteered to fill in for the Secretary if he was unable to attend meetings. He also announced that Fernando, VE3MOZ had volunteered to help out with Special Event Stations. Tom Johnson, VE3WTJ, has volunteered to chair the OVMRC Field Day. Dan thanked each of the volunteers for their help.

Dan Johnston, VA3JAR, introduced this evenings program by calling upon Ziggy, VE3JDA. Ziggy made a detailed presentation, explaining what QRP was, his experiences in operating at low wattage. He demonstrated his QRP rig and explained the advantages and disadvantages of building a QRP rig from a kit or from individual parts. Ziggy also spoke about various antennas used in QRP operation. He concluded his presentation with a questions and answer session.

Ken Barry reminded members of the Variety Night and Christmas Social which will be our December meeting.

President Dan advised the members that he had received a proposal to grant Ed and Doreen Morgan Life Membership in the OVMRC. He said that a secret ballot vote would be held at the December meeting to assess

members feelings.

Jake, VE3TQX, reported on work done and being planned on the Club's repeater. The 6 meter repeater is up and operating on 53.03 (-). Jake also asked for help in operating the Pot Hole Net on Sunday mornings.

Tom, VE3OFD, reported that the Club's membership is almost equal to last year's totals

Bubba, VE3XK, provided additional information about his experiences operating QRP in India.

President Dan asked members to come to our meeting somewhat earlier to help those manning the check in desk.

Larry, VE3WEH, reported that he was assuming the responsibility for the "Talk To Santa" program at the Museum which Jerry Wells used to handle. Larry needs four or five "Elves" with HT radios to help out on Sunday afternoon, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4:00pm.

Anne, VE3TSB, asked members to bring a plate of home baking to the next meeting so she can set a colorful table of treats.

David, VE3UES, reminded members he is still collecting the pull tabs from cans of pop and beer. He suggested that if he is not available, please give them to Larry, VE3WEH. The meeting was adjourned at 2035 for refreshments..

# Eulogy For Jerry Wells

Jerry's wife, June, asked that a representative of the OVMRC give an eulogy at his funeral service which highlighted Jerry's Amateur Radio "career". Dan Doctor was selected to perform this task and he prepared the following which he delivered on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at Jerry's funeral service held at the McKay United Church in Ottawa.



The dictionary defines the word "optimist" as a person who tends to take the most hopeful view of matters or to expect the best outcome in any circumstances.

This, to me, best describes Jerry Wells. A man who's cup was always half full, never half empty.

I am one of the fortunate people to have known and worked with Jerry during the past four or five years on various amateur radio related projects. In each instance I was always amazed at Jerry's ability to read people, to anticipate reaction and to save me from possible embarrassment at lack of perception, or from an argument, by his optimistic interventions. I respected Jerry and learned from his positive attitude.

Needless to say, I am not

alone in my respect of Jerry. The members of the amateur radio community here in the greater Ottawa area and beyond knew, respected and looked to Jerry for his guidance and leadership. Fact of the matter is, untold numbers of us have acquired our amateur radio license thanks to Jerry. He was, for a number of years, one of the instructors in amateur radio courses specializing in teaching Morse Code. Then when he felt you were able, Jerry would encourage you to take the Basic or Advance exam or the Morse Code test. How many of us have been told by Jerry after failing a Morse Code test - "Oh, you're so close to passing. Take a few deep breaths and relax for a few moments and we'll try it again!"

Jerry wanted you to succeed - he wanted you to join his community - his realm - his love - amateur radio.

Typical of Jerry's exemplary efforts, was the major role he played in re-establishing the national amateur radio demonstration station, VE3JW, which officially re-opened in March, 1995, at the Museum of Science and Technology. This was Jerry's pet project at which he spent countless hours working at its maintenance, familiarizing Volunteer operators with the station's equipment, operating the HF rig or liaising with museum officials. An eloquent

public speaker, Jerry was invited to speak at local amateur radio clubs about the national demonstration station. There is an old adage, "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it!" Again, this fits Jerry to a "T". His administrative and organizational abilities were quickly recognized by several groups as, along with his ongoing activities and interests, he served as their President or Director.

He served the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club as its President, the editor of its monthly newsletter, the Rambler, and chaired almost every committee the Club has. He served as a Net Controller of the OVMRC's Welcome Mat Net, Wise Owl Net, Military Net and the Pot Hole Net. For a number of years Jerry was the Net Manager of the Kingsmere Traffic Net.

Jerry's dedication to amateur radio was officially recognized last year as the members of the OVMRC voted Jerry to receive its first Amateur of the Year Award.

Jerry's interests were not confined to amateur radio. For the past four or five years he had been involved with the Ottawa Handicapped Association of which he was their President. He also worked with the McKay United Church's High Horizon Program for the Disabled. By the way, it was while helping  
Continued on the next page

## Eulogy For Jerry Wells

Continued from previous page

with this program that Jerry met his wife, June.

A licensed amateur operator since 1952, Jerry always found the time to assist an amateur who needed help. Regardless of how involved or busy he was, he would always take the time to help others. And speaking of others, I would like to conclude my remarks by reading some of the comments made by amateur radio operators when they were advised of Jerry's passing.

- He was a real pillar of the ham community.
  - He was always friendly, helpful and cheerful.
  - He was a wonderful source of amateur information.
  - He was always ready and willing to help a fellow ham
  - A real friend who helped me when I needed help most
  - His loss is a great loss to the amateur community
  - I can't believe he is gone
  - I will always remember him as grass roots, down to earth and very helpful person
  - His kindness to all was outstanding
  - I'm shocked to know he is gone and find it hard to believe
  - His contribution to the amateur community will be missed
- And finally, the comment which reflects the feeling of everyone who knew Jerry Wells
- I will sure miss him a lot.

## Amateur of the Year Award Dedicated

In a move to recognize and perpetuate the memory of Jerry Wells the OVMRC executive have moved to name the Club's Amateur of the Year Award the "Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award". Nomination of contestants and selection of the winner will continue to be a membership responsibility. It was also agreed that in view of the many years Jerry devoted to teaching morse code to amateurs and students studying to become amateurs that a straight key with an appropriate plaque affixed will be part of the award.

OVMRC President Dan Reardon in making the announcement to dedicate the award said, "in view of Jerry's recent death I am pleased that he was the first recipient of the award last year.

"Jerry has been a prominent and devoted Ham," Dan said, "and a real mainstay of the OVMRC. Dedicating this award in his memory is most appropriate."

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**REMEMBER  
IT'S  
VARIETY NIGHT  
AND  
CHRISTMAS  
SOCIAL  
THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 18TH**

## Joe MacPherson Elected Secretary

Well known former Ottawa amateur, Joe MacPherson was elected Secretary of RAC on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> following the election of RAC Executive. Joe, for those who know him, had the distinctive call sign of VE3CAT.

Joe, now a resident of Nova Scotia, assumes his new position on the first of January, 1998 for a two year term.

We are certain all members of the OVMRC join in congratulating Joe on his election and wish him well in his new position.

## Wise Owl Qualifying Nets Start In January

The annual qualifying nets for Wise Owl Net Certificates start on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and will continue for eleven weeks, ending Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Amateurs can qualify for one of the two types of decorative certificates. A Class "A" certificate will be awarded to amateurs who check-in on the Friday night Wise Owl Net a minimum of ten times during the qualifying period. A Class "B" Certificate will be awarded to amateurs who check-in a minimum of seven times.

## Proposed Life Membership

It has been proposed to grant Life Membership in the OVMRC to two long time and most worthy amateurs, Ed and Doreen Morgan.

In accordance with OVMRC Bylaw 2.2.2 notice of the proposal to grant Life Membership was signed by three members each of whom has been a member in good standing in the OVMRC for at least five years, as well as a member of the executive, was read at the November meeting. The Bylaw also requires that the proposal be printed in the Rambler and that a secret ballot vote be taken at the next meeting which will be done at our December meeting. A two-thirds favorable vote. is necessary to grant Life Membership.

Ed Morgan, VE3GX, has been licensed since 1938. In November, 1957, he was one of the founding members of the OVMRC. He has served as the Club's President and for many years was the editor of the Club's newsletter the Rambler. Ed was instrumental in the initial establishment and equipping of amateur station VE3JW and , for a period, was the Chairman of the station. For a number of years Ed managed the Sunday morning Pot Lid Net on HF radio. And , possibly, Ed is best known as he managed and operated the Swap Net on HF and VHF radio for some 26 years helping amateurs sell or find amateur radio equipment. He has , for a number of years, taught cw to amateurs and still assists them with his slow speed cw sessions.

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO, has been licensed for the past 46 years and is one of the founding members of the OVMRC. For some 17 years she provided a monitoring service on HF and VHF, 7 days a week helping amateurs with traffic and service calls. For several years Doreen Served as Net Controller of the Sunday morning Pot Lid Net on HF radio. She served as President of the OVMRC from 1970 to 1972.

A diligent and tireless promoter of amateur radio, Doreen has brought credit and distinction to our hobby by providing outstanding leadership and training to young females in our community.

The OVMRC Executive heartily recommends to the membership of the Club the granting of Life Membership to two most worthy amateurs, Ed and Doreen Morgan.

## RAC Rejected Again !

On Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, Industry Canada convened a meeting of the Amateur Delegation Working Group and informed RAC that after four years of joint Industry Canada-RAC collaboration on the delegation of the administration of the Amateur Radio Service, Industry Canada had decided to terminate the delegation initiative and to retain the administration of the service in house. No reason was given for the termination. Industry Canada further advised that they were going to have a commercial firm poll a cross-country sample of Canadian radio amateurs to obtain views on amateur licensing and certification to assist in Industry Canada's decision making and management. The polling began on Monday, December 1. RAC is attempting to obtain the details of the poll.

RAC deeply regrets Industry Canada's unilateral decision which RAC considers would have significantly benefitted amateur radio in Canada.

## New Executive Elected

RAC has elected its new Executive officers for the next two years at its meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The new officers are :

President J. Farrell Hopwood  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Douglas E. Leach  
Vice Pres. Government Affairs James G. Dean  
Vice Pres. International Affairs J. Kenneth Pulfer  
Vice Pres. & General Counsel Timothy S. Ellam  
Secretary Joseph MacPherson  
Treasurer Gerald Tilley

The new officers assume office on January 1<sup>st</sup>  
All amateurs join in wishing the new executive well during their term of office.

## RAC Helping Out

The new Chairman of the demonstration station at the Museum of Science and Technology, Doug Carswell, reports he has made special arrangements with the RAC office here in Ottawa to handle VE3JW's QSL cards. Thanks RAC !



## A LOOK AT YESTERYEAR

Written by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

I presume some of you were surprised to learn (as I was) that we had a 70cm repeater running in 1985! In the June 1986, Rambler, OVMRC President, Bob Campbell, VE3KLLK, reported in "Rumblings" (no that's not a typo, but the way it was spelled!) that our repeater was well on the way to "state-of-the-art" status and with luck would be fully operational by the end of the summer." Russ also noted the new repeater controller and touch-tone decoder had arrived and would be assembled and installed in the backup repeater over the summer. In the Sept, 1986 issue of the Rambler, Russ reported the backup repeater was nearly completed, RF portions were tested and control circuitry was being tested and by mid-Sept. there should be a new voice coming from the site.

During 1986 Russ VE3FSN wrote a monthly column entitled "The Leading Edge" covering the latest technology in fibre optics, he reported work had started on the first stage of a global network of optical fibre undersea cables with the first cable being laid between the coasts of England and Belgium, NASA space program, and many other interesting subjects which I found very interesting! He noted "Thinking Machines Corp." had developed a computer that could process as many as 65,563 data items simultaneously with 32 megabytes of memory and could execute up to 70 billion

instructions per second! Wow, and my 486 computer only has 16meg of ROM and a 750 megabyte hard drive. What progress over the last 11 years! Bob VE3KLLK also covered COMPUTER TIPS FOR YOUR COMMODORE 64! And our recent silent key, Jerry Wells VE3CDS, reported the Rambler had been processed by computer for the first time rather than using stencils.

Nothing about VE3TWO repeater appears in either the Executive Minutes or the Rambler until the Nov. 1986 Rambler. Russ VE3FSN noted in a very long report, the repeater had a different twang to it's voice due to the new microprocessor repeater controller that was installed. It replaced the original controller which was installed some eight years earlier and which gave excellent service, despite going through two fires! The new controller had more features: it would identify "VE3TWO OVMRC" the first time it was keyed up, had a "courtesy beep", impending time out was indicated by a stream of 10 dits over your transmission and timeout would occur (as it does now) after 3 minutes of continuous transmission and this was followed by "TO", short for Time Out. This controller was installed in a 2m repeater owned by BARF (see last month's article) and thus was really a complete change of transmitter/receiver and controller. After the controller

proved it was working well, the original equipment was to be rebuilt and reinstalled, with the BARF equipment available as a backup in case of failure of VE3TWO. Tests indicated the receiver was more sensitive.

The repeater did not have any user accessible features. Russ was having problems with the design of the equipment used to charge the back-up power batteries and began to doubt their practical use due to maintenance problems. The Jan. 1987 Rambler Financial Statement 1 August - 31 December, 1986 shows the Repeater Controller cost was \$215.22 (less than half of the expected \$500 suggested by Russ in Jan. 1986).

I should mention the Rambler started a column in 1986 called "The Weekender" which was written by Russ VE3FSN and various ham projects were featured, such as a component tester to attach to an oscilloscope to allow you to test almost all components known to man and a DTMF decoder. Bob Campbell VE3KLLK, Past President, continued his COMPUTER TIPS FOR YOUR 64 and invited members to participate in the Commodore Users Net on 7.228 MHZ.

Seems there were lots of prolific writers back in those days! Did they have less to do, more time, more interest, or more devotion? "If you are a Canadian amateur, you should support and join Radio Amateurs of Canada. It costs less than 11 cents a day!

# Potpourri

## A sampling of news and comments from Newsletters and newspapers from across the country - written by Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC

Monitoring Times Dec/97 - KZZU in Spokane is offering \$5000 to help catch a radio jammer plaguing their airwaves. Taped messages sent a string of obscenities and announcements that Santa Claus had just been shot.

U.K. - BBC known for being formal recently had an TV broadcaster do some ad lib that took management and viewers by surprise. At the end of a newscast, he announced his resignation in this manner. "After 25 years I'm leaving a group that used to be run by giants. Now it's led by pygmies in grey suits wearing blindfolds. How's that?"

WRC 97- Whether you are for or against code free access to the high frequency bands, do not look for the worlds communications regulators to make it happen anytime in the near future. Delayed for at least four years is the decision on changing the code requirement. The decision was based on using the assembly's meager resources to benefit the greatest number of people. Ham radio/Morse code in general are not seen as being very important issues in a world that revolves around instant digital communications using satellites and the Internet.

ATT - American Telephone and Telegraph has agreed to spend \$100,000 to set up VHF and UHF repeaters and

antenna systems in northern Tennessee as a way of providing better emergency communications to the region. The efforts of hams during the great flood of 1997 gained the attention and the respect of local government officials as well as that of AT&T.

AMSAT - The ham radio station on board Mir is changing frequency once again. This is part of an experiment to better understand how these frequencies will be effective on the International Space Station.. For 3 months starting Dec 1, the frequencies will be an uplink of 437.850 MHz and a downlink at 145.800 MHz. On Mar 1/98, for another 3 months, it will be the reverse.

FCC - The FCC has released the long-anticipated Amateur Radio Supplement which will allow hams to have the basic guidelines and tools to evaluate their stations for compliance with the new RF exposure regulations. One substantial change is that the originally proposed 50 watt limitation has been raised, generally, depending upon the band of operation.

Ham Radio Online - The proposed "anti-scanner" bill has been voted out. If it had passed, the bill would have prohibited the authorization of scanners that receive cellular, PCS and "protected" SMR communications. HR 2369 no longer bans receiving the wide set of Commercial Mobile

Radio Service frequencies proposed in earlier drafts of the bill. (So keep on listening to the cops folks! - VE3TSC) RF Parts - Mention is made that certain high power transmitting tubes (i.e. 3-500Z, 3-500ZG, 4-400) sold at flea markets or overseas suppliers are counterfeit. Noted are instances where Eimac and Amperex logos and cleverly copied markings or labels have been applied to tubes manufactured in China. The tubes are then packaged in yellow Eimac style or Amperex boxes. Merit Arnold, W6NQ of RF Parts requests that anyone seeing these, please notify him at [rfp@rfparts.com](mailto:rfp@rfparts.com).

FCC - The FCC is going ahead with its intention to allocate 219-220 MHz on a secondary basis to amateurs. A commercial provider of waterway communications had petitioned them to block amateur access to that band which is used for maritime telecommunications. This segment had been given to amateurs for digital packet networking when we lost the 220-222 MHz to narrowband business communications.

ARRL - Amateur radio in the United States is expanding at about 6% a year. Most of the growth, however, is coming at the VHF "No Code Technician" level which was implemented in 1991. (Anyone looking for "slightly used" HF sets? VE3TSC)