



MINUTES OVMRC GENERAL MEETING September 25, 2008, 7.30 PM

1. MEETING OPENED:

Larry Wilcox VE3WEH welcomed the 28 people in attendance. He apologized for the late start to the meeting as a result of membership renewals and new members joining at the door. He explained that our President and Vice-President were unable to attend, so he was chairing the meeting. Larry asked whether there were any guests or visiting Amateurs and Jerry Dillon VE3MP acknowledged he was a visiting Amateur and was welcomed to the meeting. Larry asked if anyone needed any Amateur Radio technical assistance or information and André Pilon VE3CLW asked for help with a Windows 98 technical problem. After some discussion, Larry asked André to discuss it further after the meeting with the other person.

Larry asked if anyone would like to Act as our Secretary for this meeting and there was no response, so volunteered himself.

2. SPECIAL THANKS:

Larry gave special thanks to Chris Weisner VE3CUZ for his help on the Membership table and for volunteering to become our Membership Chair as of this meeting.

He also gave thanks to Ernie Jury VE3EJJ for his help with Audio Visual needs for this meeting. Ernie noted he will not be able to assist after this meeting due to the OVMRC Amateur Radio Course. Larry advised the course registration takes place on September 30th in one of the classrooms.

3. AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT DONATIONS TO THE CLUB:

Larry introduced Steve Cochran VE3SBC and invited him come up and speak about the generous donations of Amateur Radio equipment that have been received from Jerry Erland VE3BBY, one of the founding members of our club, Joe Blanchett VE3BAD, Ken Young, and Jean Dennery VE3PXV. Steve thanked all of them and mentioned Ken's donated AR-88, radio #77, one of many that was used on the Mid Canada Line (MCL). The following information is taken from their web page and reproduced here for your interest. "Sandwiched between the DEW Line and the Pinetree Line, the Mid Canada Line (MCL), also known as the McGill Fence was a series of military sites designed to function as the second line of detection. Its purpose was to detect enemy aircraft that had penetrated south of the DEW Line into the heart of North America. This system operated on the "Doppler" principle. Conceived during the "Cold War" in 1951 it wasn't until January of 1958 that the line became fully operational. The MCL sites were strategically located along the 55th parallel from the Alaska border to the Atlantic Ocean. At its peak, it consisted of 8 Sector Control Stations and approximately 90 unmanned sites about 30 miles apart. With the 1960's came improvements in technology and jet aircraft design in particular which rendered the MCL no longer economically feasible or strategically required, so it was shut down. The western sites were decommissioned in January 1964 and the eastern sites in April 1965."

Steve noted the AR-88 radio was offered for sale at the CARP

Hamfest and as no one offered to purchase it, it was donated to Brian Jeffery, VE3UU, one of the many volunteers at the Diefenbunker Museum and the custodian of VE3CWM, an active amateur radio station located in this underground, cold war bunker, which is now "Canada's Cold War Museum (CWM)". Steve also mentioned the Yaesu FT-901DM which was donated by Jean Maurice Dennery VE3PXV as a result of a conversation between Jean and Ed Morgan VE3GX.

Larry called upon our Treasurer, Robert Plante VA3SHO, to come forward to receive, on behalf of the club, over \$900 generated from the sale of these donations at our club Mini-Flea Markets and at CARP Hamfest. Steve noted that some items still remain to be sold and that they would be on the tables at our Mini-Flea Market in October. Larry thanked Steve and all of those that had generously donated their personal amateur radio equipment for the benefit of the club.

4. PROGRAM:

Larry introduced Maurice-André Vigneault VE3VIG and gave him credit for conducting a very successful Special Event Station "VC3C" on the Champlain Trail, during June and July, 2008. He received a hearty round of applause.

Maurice-André used his power point presentation to take us through the two months of this event and showed many photos of the radio activation of "The Champlain Trail" to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Quebec City and Canada by Sieur Samuel de Champlain in 1608. Canadian annals acknowledge Champlain as the founder of Canada and to this day, there is an active Champlain Society in Toronto. His name was not left behind in storybooks as witnessed by the many parks, buildings, schools, hotels, streets, bridges, townships, and counties in Canada named after him and also in the U.S. Who has not heard about Lake Champlain?

Marking the passage of this extraordinary explorer along the St-Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers, Maurice-André Vigneault VE3VIG and other Amateurs from many clubs visited the sites which Champlain visited during his first voyage up the St. Lawrence and Ottawa River.

The following locations were activated using "Special Event Callsign VC3C" with the help of Amateur Radio Clubs from Quebec City to Pembroke.

01 June 08 - Champlain Lookout, Gatineau Park
07 June 08 - Ottawa Nepean Point
08 June 08 - Petrie Island
14 June 08 - Portage-du-Fort
15 June 08 - Fitzroy Harbour
22 June 08 - Portneuf
21 June 08 - Québec City

05 July 08 - Allumettes Island
06 July 08 - Cobden
12 July 08 - Trois-Rivières (Champlain)
13 July 08 - Sorel
19 July 08 - Ile Sainte-Hélène
20 July 08 - L'Orignal
30 July 08 - Wrap-up Ottawa Region - QRT



OVMRC Executive 2006-2007

President:

[Jerry Neufeld](mailto:jerry.neufeld@rogers.com), VE3QSO
jerry.neufeld@rogers.com, 613-828-0959

Vice-President:

[Jean Crepeau](mailto:va3jcn@rac.ca), VA3JCN
va3jcn@rac.ca, 613-288-8777

Treasurer:

[Robert Plante](mailto:plantrj@rogers.com), VA3SHO
plantrj@rogers.com, 613-

Secretary:

Vacant

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Radio Exhibit:

[Maurice-André Vigneault](mailto:vig@mondenet.com), VE3VIG
vig@mondenet.com, 613-749-9010

Amateur Radio Training:

[Ernie Jury](mailto:s282@freenet.carleton.ca), VE3EJJ
s282@freenet.carleton.ca, 613-728-3666

Accredited Examiner:

[Bob Kavanagh](mailto:ve3osz@rac.ca), VE3OSZ
ve3osz@rac.ca, 613-225-6785

[Ernie Jury](mailto:s282@freenet.carleton.ca), VE3EJJ
s282@freenet.carleton.ca, 613-728-3666

Field Day:

[George Steeves](mailto:georgesteeves@rogers.com), VE3ZQH
georgesteeves@rogers.com, 613-596-5015

Historical:

[Larry Wilcox](mailto:larrywilcox@rogers.com), VE3WEH
larrywilcox@rogers.com, 613-747-5565

Flea Market:

[Jake Guertin](mailto:ve2tqx@rac.ca), VE2TQX
ve2tqx@rac.ca, 819-684-9496

Membership:

[Jean-Guy Hardy](mailto:jeanguy2@soltekweb.com), VE3YOS
jeanguy2@soltekweb.com, 613-878-2117

Publicity & Programs:

[Steve Cochran](mailto:stevec@nfc.ca), VE3SBC
stevec@nfc.ca, 613-248-00323

Radio Operations (UHF/VHF):

[Matthew Hall](mailto:va3mhb@yahoo.ca), VA3MHB
va3mhb@yahoo.ca, 613-745-9752

Radio Operations (HF):

[Patrick Tunney](mailto:va3cmd@rogers.com), VA3CMD
va3cmd@rogers.com, 613-

Technical:

[Cam Milne](mailto:cmilne@nortel.com), VA3FO
cmilne@nortel.com, 613-763-8068

Emergency Preparedness:

[Ken Halcrow](mailto:Ken_h@rogers.com), VE3RSR
Ken_h@rogers.com, 613-837-3261

Newsletter:

[Jerry Neufeld](mailto:jerry.neufeld@rogers.com), VE3QSO
jerry.neufeld@rogers.com, 613-828-0959

Webmaster:

[Elias Zaydan](mailto:ve3ekz@rac.ca), VE3EKZ
ve3ekz@rac.ca, 613-

OVMRC Life Members

Maurice-André Vigneault,
VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

Ed Morgan, VE3GX

Bill Wilson, VE3NR

Sponsors

The OVMRC acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities:

- Acceptable Storage, Ottawa, ON
- Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON
- Elkel Ltee., Trois-Rivières, QC
- Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON
- Ottawa Camping Trailers Ltd., Ottawa, ON
- Travel-Mor Trailer Sales, Ottawa, ON

The *Rambler* is produced using Corel's Ventura™ 8 software.

The club's web site is hosted by Magma Communications Ltd.
www.ovmrc.on.ca

OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 Mhz(+)

Amateur Radio Exhibit VE3JW

Web site:

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada Science & Technology Museum

The *Rambler* is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. And is published 11 times a year (monthly, except for July). Opinions expressed in the *Rambler* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the OVMRC Inc., it's officers or it's members. Permission is granted to republish the contents in whole or in part, providing the source is acknowledged. Commercial use of the contents is expressly prohibited. Submit articles to the editor or by e-mail to:

jerry.neufeld@rogers.com.

QSL manager: VE3VIG, Maurice-André Vigneault, PH2-400 Montfort St. Ottawa, ON Canada, K1L 8G6. We will QSL via the Bureau, eQSL, or direct with a SASE.

Larry thanked Maurice-André for his extraordinary efforts in planning, organizing and involving so many officials and Amateur Radio Clubs in this celebration. Everyone enjoyed his accomplishment and gave him a loud round of applause.

5. CLUB STATUS AND ELECTION IN NOVEMBER:

Larry paid tribute to Jerry Neufeld VE3QSO for the leadership he has provided over the past year as President. Among other things, he noted that Jerry has given us some new challenges with several new awards for our members as noted in your May 2008 RAMBLER:

The "President's Award",
The "Public Service Award" and
The "Most Innovative Project Award"

In addition, Jerry and your Executive have been instrumental in suggesting changes to some of our By-Laws resulting in:

- lower Membership Fees with the cost cut in half to \$10 for Associate Membership and \$20 for Regular Membership,

- a change in the By-laws to allow a member to serve longer than 2 years as a Director. Larry noted this is the most significant of changes with the new ability to serve in any of the key Directors' positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer for more than two years, and

- the establishment of a "New Special Projects Standing Committee" replacing the Flea Market Chair.

Larry informed those present In spite of all our efforts in finding Executive Members to lead our club this year, we have failed in obtaining volunteers for some of the key Director positions. He said if we don't have volunteers to fill the key positions on the Executive, we may have to consider other options such as disbanding the club or amalgamating the club, perhaps with the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club. The decision about what to do would be put forward to the members attending the November General Meeting. Larry gave the following status report and advised we still need members to fill all of the positions shown VACANT.

a) President - VACANT - Jerry Neufeld VE3QSO has stepped down.

b) Vice-President - Jean Crépeau VA3JCN has agreed to stand for this office.

c) Treasurer - VACANT - Robert Plante VA3SHO, is currently serving but needs a replacement as he has retired and will be leaving Ottawa for the winter period.

d) Secretary - VACANT - currently Acting Secretary, Terry Walton VE3TWC & Larry Wilcox VE3WEH.

e) Amateur Radio Exhibit - VE3JW - Maurice-André Vigneault VE3VIG has agreed to stand.

e) Amateur Radio Training - Ernie Jury VE3EJJ has agreed to stand.

f) Membership - Larry thanked Jean-Guy Hardy VE3YOS for his efforts over the past year and noted that Jean-Guy has not been able to devote much of his time due to his work demands. Larry welcomed Chris Wiesner VE3CUZ who accepted this responsibility for this chair just prior to the meeting.

g) Publicity & Programs - VACANT - Larry thanked Steve Cochran VE3SBC for all his work in this position over the past several years for the club and his loss to our club will be a gain for the Halifax Amateur Radio Club as Steve is leaving Ottawa in October to live in Halifax.

h) Radio Operations: Patrick Tunney VA3CMD stepped down and Matthew Hall VA3MHB has agreed to fill this position.

j) Technical - Cam Milne VA3FO has agreed to look after the technical needs of our repeater. He also informed us that he has order parts for the UHF side of repeater.

k) Emergency Preparedness - VACANT - Ken Halcrow VE3SRS is stepping down after about 10 years of quality service involved in designing, renovating and hauling our Emergency trailer around and his help with the Emergency Preparedness activities in the region.

l) Historical - Larry Wilcox VE3WEH has agreed to stand.

m) OVMRC Web Page - Elvis Zaydon VE3EKZ has updated some of the web pages. We also we have an offer from Chris VE3CUZ to take on this function.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS:

Larry asked if there were any announcements, comments or suggestions from the

floor and there were none.

7. DRAW FOR DOOR PRIZES and 50/50 DRAW:

Several door prizes were won, a Turner Microphone worth about \$250 donated by Maurice-André VE3VIG and several Amateur Radio technical books were donated by Robert Cherry VE2AGE. The 50/50 draw was for \$20.

8. NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Larry reminded the current Executive their will be an Executive of Meeting next week on Thursday evening at 7 p.m.

9. NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

Larry announced that our next General Meeting on October 16, 2008, at pm will be a Mini Flea Market held just down the hall from the Auditorium and to contact Steve if you want a table. Ken Halcrow VE3SRS will be making an audio visual presentation about the 50th Anniversary of VE8RCS which he attended.

10. ELECTION MEETING - NOVEMBER 20, 2008:

Larry reminded members there will be an Election of the Executive at our General Meeting, to be held on November 20, 2008.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 10 pm.

Signed

Larry Wilcox VE3WEH
OVMRC Acting Secretary

RAC Bulletin 08-14: Discussions begin on RAC / Canadian Red Cross MOU

The Radio Amateurs of Canada Field Services Organization has begun discussions with the Canadian Red Cross to update the Memorandum of Understanding that has existed between RAC and the CRC since 1994. RAC Past President Earle Smith, VE6NM, has been commissioned by the Vice President Field Services to act on behalf of RAC in revisiting and modernizing the documents. The MOU details RAC's undertaking to provide communications through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the National Traffic System, as well as for the two organizations to work closely with one another during emergency situations in Canada. The existing MOU may be seen at.

Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, VPFS

ON THE CHAMPLAIN TRAIL

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

Project outline

"Activate, with Amateur Radio communications, sites marked by the passage of Samuel de Champlain during his first voyage to the Ottawa Valley, from Québec to Pembroke, a distance of 600 kilometres along the Saint-Laurent and Ottawa Rivers"

What is driving me to hop on such a venture?

A chain of events, which brings me to another stage on a same course, for the pleasure and advancement of Amateur Radio.

Towards the end of 2006, I had to make a decision: transfer all Amateur Radio equipment into a mobile unit. Due to a clause in the lease, my 15th floor apartment no longer allows me to enjoy my favourite hobby. The VA2MA mobile is born.

In 2007, a golden opportunity pops up to prove out the mobile: the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Rideau Canal which runs from Ottawa to Kingston and which is designated "World Heritage Site" by UNESCO the same year. The Manotick Amateur Radio Group (MARG) takes on the activation of the 47 locks along the canal. It was a unique adventure that allowed me to improve my mobile systems. (see TCA Jan/Feb 2008)

New Years Eve 2008, Québec City bursts out! While viewing the televised spectacle of the opening of this grand feast lasting all year and commemorating the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Québec City by Samuel de Champlain in 1608, I was wondering if there would be something we could do as radio amateurs in connection with the celebrations.

On the first of January 2008 a project is started. Research on the Internet to find out the schedule of proposed festivities at Québec, in the province, in Canada, in

France, and worldwide. Research on Champlain himself, his voyages, his writings, his exploits. There! The connection is made. Enough information to conceive the idea of a special event for Amateur Radio.

HISTORY

A little bit of history. Champlain was born in Brouages, Charente-maritime, around 1570. His father was a sailor and he followed in the same steps. Also, he became a geographer. He travelled along the coast of Spain and got as far as the Antilles. In 1603, assigned as a cartographer by the King, he came to Acadia, made a first effort at building Port-Royal, and he mapped the North-Eastern coast of America as far as Cape Cod.

In 1608, King Henri IV gives him a mission to found and build a colony in Canada. His ship, Don de Dieu, landed at Québec and he chose that site to establish a first settlement in Canada.

Champlain wrote three books, published in Paris in 1632, relating his mission and his exploits in Canada. The Toronto based Champlain Society recognizes him as the Father of New-France and as the one who opened the road towards the Western part of the continent. The Dictionary of Canadian Biographies acknowledges him as the founder of Canada.

Let's not forget that after its foundation, Canada lived its first 150 years under the French régime. Moreover, Rideau Hall in Ottawa, in conjunction with the 400th anniversary, proclaims high on its iron gates that Champlain was the first Governor of Canada.

PLAN

As we've seen in this brief overlook of history, we also celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Canada by Samuel de Champlain in 1608. Thence, the celebrations are not limited to the City of Québec. What a great opportunity, for Amateur Radio, which lets us leap over the Ramparts of Québec City and bring the celebrations to the Ottawa Valley.

Radio Amateurs are known as good will ambassadors between nations. It's also a main idea in the planning of our special event. Three main points guide us:

- Activation of sites marked by Champlain;

- Promotion of Amateur Radio;

- Rapprochement of RAC/RAQI clubs, and reaching out internationally.

OVMRC

In order to launch such a plan, we need support and cooperation. When the idea was presented to the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC), it was immediately accepted and a small budget was voted.

As there was a large part of pleasure in this adventure, I decided to double the club's input: shelter, food, cost of transport etc. Eventually, I had to triple it due to the purchase of necessary equipment for The Trail, equipment that I will retain for the pursuit of other objectives.

Contrary to highly touted DXpeditions in exotic places, which are financed by equipment companies, this operation is totally at our own expense.

COORDINATION

You must be aware of the heavy task of coordination before us:

- Industry Canada;

- Help along The Trail by participating clubs;

- Local authorities' permission at each site.

Industry Canada

First, the special event call sign for The Champlain Trail. Seeing the distance and spread of sites along The Trail, we had to obtain authorization for a two month period. Also, we wanted to promote Amateur Radio and meet the public. In order to do so, we had to activate during the weekends when local Radio Amateur Clubs, who would accept to help us in this project, are more available and visitors more numerous.

Fortunately, we had a precedent: VC3R (Rideau) in 2007, because it's not easy to obtain from IC a special call for two months. We were then able to obtain

callsign VC3C for the month of June and July, in all, 60 days.

Clubs

In order to contact the clubs along The Trail and to present to them our project, we have used emails, telephone, personal approach, club bulletins, Amateur Radio publications, in other words all that was available.

We wrote up a list of 14 clubs and groups, which were near the sites that we had tentatively selected along The Trail. After an initial contact with them, we received a favourable response in all cases, indicating their intention to promote our project among their members. Soon, we received confirmation of their participation with operators and, in certain cases, some extra equipment.

Local authorities

For local authorities, a different approach. A locality can have many organisations responsible for parks and public areas: Parrish committee, municipal section, provincial and even federal jurisdiction. In Ottawa for instance, responsibilities are spread to the City, to the Region (National Capital Commission), to the Province (some parks), and to the Federal. You need to be able to find your way.

An interesting example is the one for Québec City. We wanted to activate the Champlain monument near Château Frontenac. A small parking area in front of the monument would have allowed us to install our mobile. You might have seen it on TV on July 13 during the huge international ceremony, under the rain. The main tribune was seen there. After obtaining permission for our project in Québec City from the Société Québec 400, we were referred to the City of Québec, which is responsible for this small parking.

The City had a full schedule for this spot and they suggested the heights of Cap-Aux-Diamants, not too far from the Château. Ideal for communications, we thought. Only thing, the responsibility for the Cap and the Belvédère is Federal. We then presented our project to Mr

St-Pierre of the Battlefields Commission. He accepted willingly in view of our inter-provincial event and the free attraction for visitors.

Fortunately, all locations were not that complicated, but we had to obtain the necessary permissions to operate at the different sites. In certain cases, local clubs were able to obtain authorization for us, such as ARPI of Portneuf, UMS of Montréal, and PR-ARES for L'Original. We will discuss later each site and the reason for its selection.

PREPARATION

Equipment

At the same time, we worked on a long list of preparations; first in line, the equipment. I have used the VA2MA/mobile during one-day outings, but in this case, and occasionally, we had to go on 2 or 3 days outings.

A Kenwood TS-570D was our main radio and we carried an Icom IC-725 as a secondary station. We had a Yaesu FT-100D in the vehicle accompanied with a selection of Hustler antennas. When at a site, the day before activation, the FT-100D was used to check the bands. If additional operators would need another station during activation, we would set up the IC-725 on a distant table. For power we had the vehicle battery for the Yaesu, a Honda generator for the Kenwood and a deep-cycle battery for the Icom. A small Power Pack was used for the Kenwood D7Ag on Packet and APRS and a small 35 watts linear amplifier. Also, we had an inverter for the laptop.

For antennas we had a 20m dipole, always first to go up, a G5RVjr (40 to 10m) held as a spare, a selection of mobile verticals in different bands allowing some flexibility. Those "sticks" were mounted either in a horizontal dipole configuration or in a Vee, at six metres from the ground. In addition, for satellite contacts, we had an Arrow II Satellite with duplexer.

A screen shelter, which could also be used against the rain, was purchased after our visit in Portneuf. Two folding tables, and two chairs, completed our cargo, includ-

ing tools, tripods, oil and gas containers, antenna tuners, ropes and cables.

Banners and Publicity

In order to "sell" our project, we had to present it. A large project board was produced. At the centre, there was a map by Champlain and The Trail itinerary for June and July. To the right, there were drawings representing Champlain and to the left, the crests of the 14 clubs who responded to our call. The whole topped by a panel with the RAC and RAQI logos on each side of our special call "VC3C".

RAC and RAQI were approached regarding handouts for visitors. They had them in production but none were ready. I did a search on Internet to find out what RAQI and REF-Union (France) had regarding Amateur Radio. These two combined sources were the basis of our French handout. For the English handout, the information from RAC and RSGB (UK) was used.

We had to have a large banner to hang up at activation sites. The conception and design were done by computer and submitted to a local shop, the same one used for the "VC3R Rideau 175" banner. This turned out to be the most expensive item for the OVMRC budget.

Now for the publicity. An event like this one has to be spread by the media. I contacted RAC to obtain a list of media in Ontario East and in Québec. I was referred to John Bartlett, VE1OZ, RAC Vice-President, Public Relations. It was an excellent contact as John helped me to produce a "news release" according to recent standards. I forwarded it to the media from Québec to Pembroke, some radio and television stations, and all the known newspapers along The Champlain Trail.

We also had to make this information available on the Internet. A special page on the OVMRC web site was published. A new web site VC3C was published with the help of Yahoo "geocities". The callsign VC3C was introduced at qrz.com with information about the event and the QSL manager. While on QSLs, it is important to set up an account with your RAC Incoming Bureau indicating the special event callsign. We also set up a

separate account with eQSL under the VC3C call.

Interesting here to note that an amateur, while learning from qrz.com that Champlain had founded Canada, sent me an email asking that I correct this error immediately. "It's not Canada, it's the City of Québec". I asked him to not erase from history the 150 years of the development of Canada under the French régime since its foundation in 1608. He thanked me for filling a void in his knowledge of history.

We published the VC3C information in the ARRL, RAC and RAQI websites and bulletins. In return, many sites and clubs around the world republished it. I found this out when I typed VC3C at Google. We were announced in Hungary, Lithuania, Russia, all over Europe, in Australia and South America.

We were looking for contacts with France, Champlain's origin. I contacted REF-Union, which is the French national organisation similar to ARRL or RAC. Our information was published for the French amateurs and Jacques, F0EAR, from LaRoche, Charente-maritime, REF-Union secretary for Department 17, was ready for the challenge. He had a list of six operators in the region that would be on the air, and especially, an amateur with a communications RV at Brouages, Champlain's village.

Jacques was successful in obtaining a special event callsign "TM400" to be used during two weeks from 1 to 15 June, the limit in France. This would coincide well with the numerous Québec-400 activities in the Charentes.

In order to celebrate Canada, we wanted to have RSGB as part of the party. We sent our information and as soon as it was published for the UK, Terry, G7JVV, contacted me to establish skeds with him and Richard, G0RSN. Festivities were celebrated in London with a "Québec 400" exhibit at Piccadilly Square during a three-month period.

Actually, the UK did a better job with publicity than one of our clubs here in Ottawa. OARC had published, on their Website Home page, our event as being 'The Champagne Trail'. I thought it was rather funny, but, nevertheless, I sent a correction. Despite their effort, they still haven't got it right.

Long list of preparations indeed. Now, we had to assemble the equipment and make sure all worked well. The QSL card conception was left for later when the inspiration would come from The Champlain Trail.

Were we ready to respond to our three engagements: Activate, Promote, Assemble? For the last item, a first test was to come at the AmateurFest in Sorel-Tracy.

SOREL-TRACY - SEND OFF

When I approached the Club de Radio Amateur de Sorel-Tracy (CRAST) to invite them to participate in our project, President, Luc, VE2DWE, immediately offered us a table at their annual Fest/General Meeting so that we could present it. A unique occasion to feel the RAQI ground in a joint effort with RAC.

Sunday, May 25, 2008, we were at Sorel with all the trappings of the VC3C project. By chance or design, Luc had us at the front table with the RAC and RAQI presentations, the master of ceremony/announcer, and the Musée Québécois de la Radio at the other end.

Reactions were positive coming from these executives, and also, coming from the visitors at our presentation. I jumped on the occasion and asked RAC and RAQI executives to come over for a pic-

ture as a send-off for our VC3C project "On the Champlain Trail". The picture was published in TCA (Jul/Aug 2008) and included:

- RAQI President, Mario Bilodeau, VE2EKL;

- RAC and RAQI Vice-President, Guy Richard, VE2XTD;

- RAC Director, Québec section, Noël Marcil, VE2BR;

- and yours truly, VC3C project coordinator.

Good start, which augured well for the acceptance of our project by the two national groups at the club level. I went back to Ottawa satisfied of this development, and on my way towards our first outing on Jun 1, the following Sunday.

RAC Bulletin 2008-025E Canadian Amateur Radio Emergency Database CARED to become NARED.

The Radio Amateurs of Canada's Canadian Amateur Radio Emergency Database, or "CARED", which was announced some months ago in The Canadian Amateur (TCA) magazine and more recently through a RAC Bulletin, has been changed in name to the National Amateur Radio Emergency Database, or "NARED".

This change was made in order to avoid possible confusion with another Amateur Radio-related list that uses the "CARED" acronym for a database unrelated to emergency communications.

Bob Cooke VE3BDB
RAC Vice President
Field Services

OVMRC 08/09 Calendar

Month	Rambler Deadline	Club Meeting	Exec Meeting
Oct	3	16	23
Nov	7	20	27
Dec	6	18	TBD
Jan	2	15	22
Feb	6	19	26
Mar	6	19	26
Apr	3	16	23
May	8	21	28
Jun	5	18	25