

ATLANTIC

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Microwave Engineers Perform

(Left) Michel Leblanc, Microwave Engineer, and Dale Snowdon, Supervisor of Microwave Office in Moncton, review network configurations for a licensing proposal. (DOC's - Atlantic Regional Engineering, both from DOC'S Atlantic Regional bank)

22 years of service, innovation and creativity



Communications
Canada

Atlantic InterComm

is the internal newsletter for Communications Canada, Atlantic Region.

It is published on a quarterly basis and is produced thanks to the volunteer participation of our staff throughout the region. The production is coordinated by the Atlantic Region Internal Communications Committee (ARICC) under Public Affairs.

ARICC members for 1991:

Paul Soucy	Moncton
Eugène Aucoin	Moncton
Annabelle Juneau	Moncton
Bob O'Leary	Halifax
Anita Le Blanc	Saint John
Ghislaine Didham	St. John's
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The views expressed in this newsletter are those of individual employees and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Department of Communications.

Notes from the Deputy Director General

Looking Forward to 1991 - 1992



It gives me great pleasure in contributing the opening notes to this fourth edition of Atlantic InterComm reaching all DOC employees throughout the Region. It seems like only yesterday that we were struggling to publish the first edition and here we are with the fourth issue and an abundance of articles from the four corners of the Region.

On this note, I would like to congratulate the founding team of Atlantic InterComm who were the proud recipients of the Employee Recognition Award presented by our Deputy Minister, Alain Gourd, during his visit to Moncton on January 29th, 1991. It is through their past and present initiatives as well as the active participation by all employees that the Atlantic Region is able to boast of excellent internal communications through this newsletter as well as other regularly scheduled activities.

During the past few months, I've visited all four District Offices and was very pleased with the warm reception extended to me by all staff and especially the open and frank discussions held during general staff meetings.

These meetings at the District Office level were to discuss general concerns as well as Public Service 2000, the five and nine month reviews, staffing and changing priorities. As I mentioned, employees were open and frank, expressing their views in the complex environment we work in and offering suggestions on how we can better meet the challenges. These discussions are appreciated and necessary, and help us better plan our futures.

Before talking about the future (as near as April 1st, 1991), I would just like to mention that we've just finished the nine month review with input from all sections and Districts and I'm proud to say we have accomplished a lot. It's amazing to look at what was planned and then look at what was actually accomplished, activity by activity, section by section and District by District. We've accomplished a lot in spite of the many obstacles. Of course, there were important activities which had to be curtailed due to lack of people or money and this is unfortunate; but, looking back we can easily see where our strengths are in adapting and meeting the challenges.

This brings me to our planning for next year. By publication date, we will be in high gear in planning our operations for 1991-92. There are many challenges ahead, changing or growing programs, PS 2000, fiscal restraint and the like.

We all know we cannot do everything we feel we should do and some of the choices can be difficult. However, based on experience, we know that we'll overcome the obstacles ahead and deliver the best possible service, thanks to your support.

In closing, thanks again for your valued support over the past 12 months. Looking forward to 1991-92!

F. George Richard

Welcome Harvey!



Harvey Hiscock, Administrative Assistant in St. John's District Office.

Harvey Hiscock joined the St. John's D.O.C. office on October 22, 1990 as an Administrative Assistant. Harvey is seconded from the Department of Supply and Services (DSS) for a ten-month period replacing Ghislaine Didham who is seconded to GTA.

Harvey joined DSS in 1979 after working several years in the private sector, first with the Royal Bank and then with a wholesale/retail firm.

At DSS, Harvey started as a peripheral operator in the computer room, then became lead operator. Most recently, he held the position of Supervisor of Support Services (and technical support officer) in the EDP Section.

Harvey, his wife - Ruth, and two young daughters reside in St. Philips just outside St. John's where he is very active in his local church, both in the choir and as superintendent of Sunday School.

The staff at St. John's District Office appreciate Harvey's experience in business, but more so his sense of humour. His cheery outlook on life has made him a welcomed addition to this office.

Employee Recognition Award Program

Two Awards Handed Out in the Atlantic Region

Two groups of Communications Canada employees from the Atlantic Region were recently presented with Employee Recognition Awards for their participation in two large-scale projects in the region. The first team consists of the founding members of Atlantic InterComm, the regional newsletter for Department employees. The second team is made up of the Atlantic Region Director General, the Halifax District Office Director and an official of the Communications Research Centre in Ottawa. They were recognized for their major contributions leading to the establishment of the Canadian Centre for Marine Communications (CCMC) in St. John's, Newfoundland. During his stop-over in Moncton on January 29 last, Deputy Minister Alain Gourd presented an award to each recipient.



The founding team of Atlantic InterComm. Front row, left to right: Mary Clare Butler (Charlottetown), Alain Gourd, Deputy Minister, Rachel Léger (Moncton), Maurice Thériault (Moncton); second row: Eugène Aucoin (Moncton), Paul Soucy (Moncton), Ghislaine Didham (St. John's), Annabelle Juneau (Moncton), Anita Le Blanc (Saint John) and Veronica Leonard (Moncton); absent: Nicole Monette (Halifax).



Alain Gourd, Deputy Minister, presents awards to Ron J. Wilcox, Halifax District Director (left), and Pierre Boudreau, Atlantic Region Director General (centre), in recognition of their participation in the CCMC project. Robert W. Breithaupt, of the Communications Research Centre, was absent when the photo was taken.



GTA as an SOA *(Special Operating Agency)*

by Annabelle Juneau

The Government of Canada has named a number of government bodies as Special Operating Agencies (SOA). Among them are Supply and Services Canada's Printing Operations, Public Service Commission's Training and Development, and DOC's Government Telecommunications Agency (GTA).

These are service oriented branches of departments which assist other federal departments and agencies.

Since April 1, 1990, GTA has become part of this innovative approach to management in the federal government. Some of the more visible changes which will take place in GTA as an SOA:

- Increased Regional responsibilities
- Primary focus will be on the provision of service to clients
- Commitment to excellence in terms of quality of service and responsiveness to clients
- Detailed financial and service objectives
- Marketing techniques will be used to create and maintain a strong awareness of its services
- Rates for services will be established in response to market forces.

GTA's aim remains the same - to provide high quality services to its clients in an efficient and effective manner at an economical cost. This translates into GTA having the responsibility for planning, providing, coordinating and managing common telecommunications services for the Government of Canada.

GTA as part of DOC

DOC's overall objectives for telecommunications, technology and research, include the development of Canadian industry. Regional development can be enhanced by the close liaison and sharing of information between GTA and other components of DOC with respect to planning, long-term technical requirements and procurement strategies.

Lines of authority within DOC

At the helm of GTA will be the CEO (Chief Executive Officer), responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Agency. The CEO will be accountable to the Deputy Minister through the Assistant Deputy Minister, Research and Spectrum (ADMRS). The Minister of Communications remains the responsible Minister for GTA.

Norm Boudreau, acting regional director for GTA, says that "the SOA status does not affect the position of GTA staff as public servants. They will continue to be governed by the Public Service Employment Act and other applicable legislation."

In a nutshell, GTA will be in compe-

titition with other private industry suppliers, however, Treasury Board has recognized GTA as the focal point for the delivery of common telecommunications services in the federal government. Therefore, GTA must continue striving to provide the most cost effective service which meets the clients' needs.

GTA will, therefore, endeavour to provide an ever-increasing share of the federal government's voice and data telecommunications requirements, thereby achieving greater savings for the government in relation to equivalent commercial services available from telecommunications carriers and the industry.



DOC at Marine '90

by Roger Squires

St. John's Memorial Stadium was the setting from November 8 to 10, 1990 for Marine '90, an annual exhibition for fishing and marine industries in Newfoundland and Labrador. The St. John's District Office attended with a high-profile booth supported by a model of the M-SAT satellite, the ROR (marine) computerized examination and a display of publications.

Staff members were extremely pleased with the quality of our visual display which reflects the local environment and duties of the district office personnel. Those who participated directly to the success of the display were: **Lynn Mercer, Tom Grant, Jeff Butt, Harvey Hiscock and Gordon Garland.**

In the above picture, D.O.C. display booth at Marine '90, St. John's, Nfld. showing M-SAT mobile and display of publications.

Thank You for Years of Loyal Services

Howard Blaxland

by Mary Clare Butler

Howard Blaxland officially retired on January 9, 1991 although due to poor health he has been off work for several months.

He was born in his grandmother's house in Bristol, Prince Edward Island and during his childhood spent winters in Morell and summer months in a fishing shanty in St. Peter's. His education began in a three room schoolhouse in Morell and then on to Union Commercial College in Charlottetown, where he graduated with a business course.

In 1956 he joined the RCAF and was sent to St. Jean, Quebec for basic training and then onto Clinton, Ontario for electronic training where he graduated as a Radar Technician. Howard was then posted to St. Margaret's, New Bruns-



wick and while on leave, he married Annie Whiteway from Brooklyn, P.E.I. They returned to reside in Chatham and started a family with the arrival of a son and later, two daughters. His final RCAF posting was Falconbridge, Ontario where his third daughter was born.

Having left the service in 1965, he and his family moved home to the Island for two years where Howard spent a year in television and radio repairs and another year teaching electronics at the local vocational school. Finding that this was not his true vocation, he and his family moved to Halifax, was employed at the HMC Dockyard and obtained his journeyman's electronic ticket. Here, their family was completed with the arrival of a second son, and Howard became

heavily involved with the Boy Scouts. Howard joined the Department of Communications in 1973 and was transferred to Saint John. There, he became an auxiliary member of the RCMP. He also became a member of the Saint John Camera Club and took a summer course in photography at UNB.

In 1980, he was transferred to Halifax for a few months before accepting a transfer to Charlottetown where he has spent the last 10 years of his career. He now resides in the Montague area with his wife and youngest son.

Howard plans to spend his time doing what he does best; puttering around his workshop, fishing, taking photographs, fly tying, drinking coffee at the local coffee shop and his new found talent, painting. He will also be working on his Fishing Master IV ticket. So to use Howard's own words, he is retiring but not quitting work.

Neil J. Parent

by Faye Parent

Neil was born September 22, 1938, in Belle River Ontario. He started working at a very young age and was employed with such companies as Huron Steel Products, Department of Highways and Chrysler Corporation for a number of years.

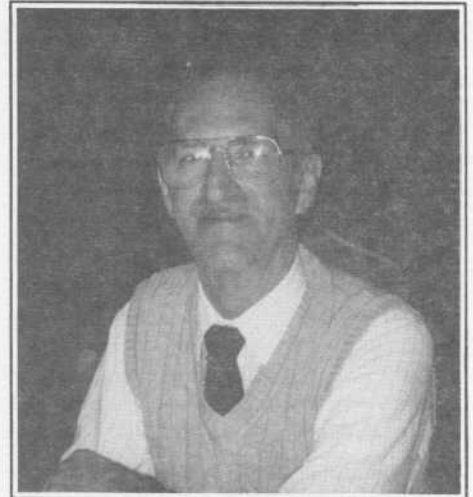
Like a lot of young men with itchy feet and a longing to see the world, Neil joined the Royal Canadian Navy in April 1957. He became a communicator for the Navy with postings to the HMCS *Bonaventure* (1958-60), *Albro Lake* (1960-62), the HMCS *Cape Scott* (1962-63), *Stadacona* (1963) where he took a diving course, the HMCS *Granby* (1964), the HMCS *Bonaventure* (1964-65) where they transported peace keeping forces to Cyprus, the HMCS *Kootenay* (1965-67) which exploded at sea during manoeuvres killing 12 men, the HMCS *Saskatchewan* (1967-68), to *Stadacona* (1969) for further training, the HMCS

Bonaventure (1969-70) and finally the HMCS *Skeena* (1973-74).

After spending 17 years in the Navy, Neil decided it was time to get a more "solid footing". And what's more solid than working for the Department of Communications? Neil won a competition with the Department in 1974 and worked as a Radio Inspector in Halifax until 1980. Another competition merited the move to Saint John as Supervisor of Authorization.

One would think that with all the moving around, Neil and Faye would not have had time to even think about a family. Not true, they have five lovely daughters, Venus, Diana, Aurora, Maia and Athena.

Neil's hobbies included playing the mandolin, baseball (player and coach), tropical fish breeder, antique motorcycles (collector and restorer). At this point in time, he is heavily involved in the latter



and is well known as "The Aerial Nut".

Future plans are to move to Mexico or South Carolina and possibly restore a vintage car. Dreams to own a Jaguar XKE (antique), a Vincent Black Shadow and build a Gyrocopter.

Christmas 90 at DOC - Atlantic

Pot Luck in Halifax

by Ron Wilcox

If you ever get an invitation to a pot luck lunch at the Halifax District Office, accept!

When **Debbie Duggan** and **Keith Dares** approached me about having an office pot luck lunch early in December I thought: "Why not"?? (I had just finished my own brown bag special and was open to suggestions - good timing).

With very little fanfare, things progress through the selection of dishes - refreshments - utensils - dessert phase and the big day arrived, December

dishes present. Suffice to say **John Kennedy** and **Terry Landry** did not really stand out from the crowd as they quietly made their way back to the table for the third time, but nobody was counting.

Every dish was grand and each brought its own round of congratulations and appreciation to the contributor. Many bows were taken (perhaps some by the undeserving - there were culinary claims I personally found unbelievable) while some... well ... amid the gasps and desperate cries for water Keith kept smiling



18th. A most memorable day indeed!

Keith set the table, with much grumbling and issuance of dire threats to those bold, impatient, souls who tried to sneak a small sample. And what a table! Brown bag begone, forever!

Since everyone, it seemed, had a favourite and I dare not risk offending anyone through oversight, I will not even attempt to describe the fabulous

as he insisted to anyone who would listen that his curry was really not that HOT. And for my part, I didn't feel quite so whimpish after I overheard someone else asking **Dick Lawlor** for his wife's recipe for Chicken broccoli casserole.

I look forward to the next time folks and to heck with that digital stress meter I found under the Christmas tree.



Christmas Tree put up in the Halifax District Office.

The "True" Spirit of Christmas

by Anita Le Blanc

During the Christmas season each year, Saint John district office turns to the less fortunate.

In past years, we wanted to sponsor a needy family of our own, but this year the money we collected went in with other departments in our building.

By doing this we were able to help the needy people in the Saint John area. The workers in our building collected a grand total of \$866! This generous offering has contributed to helping those people and families in our neighbourhood who find themselves in need of assistance.

It is so nice to know that the true spirit of Christmas is not totally lost in this world of commercialism. With so much hatred and disharmony prevalent in our world today, it is enlightening to know people can and do care deeply about others.

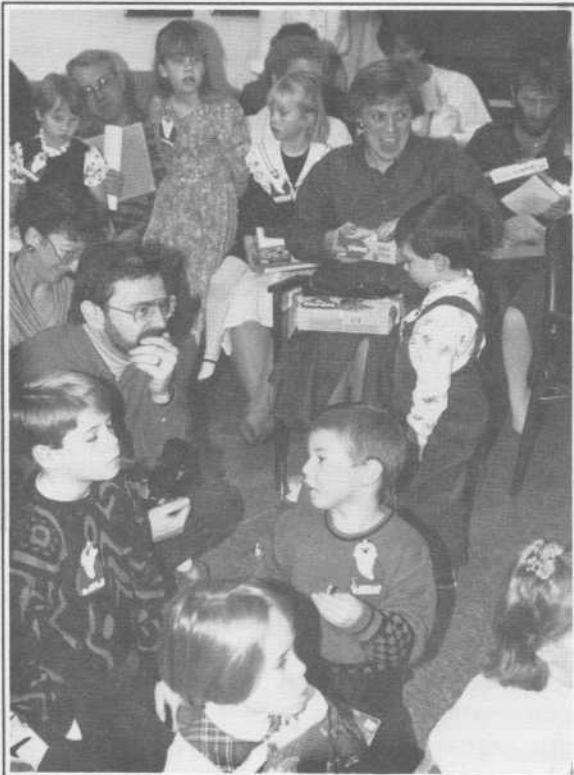
Christmas 90 at DOC - Atlantic

St. John's District Office Christmas Luncheon

For the first time in many years, all staff members of DOC and GTA offices, in St. John's, were present to enjoy our Christmas luncheon tradition. **Don Matthews** and **Mac Chafe**, who are presently on extended sick leave, made a special effort to join us. Past history relates that one or two of our employees always had to brave winter conditions to do ship inspections in the Burin Peninsula area or resolve interference problems while others munched away. Christmas 1990 was a peaceful and serene one and enabled us to enjoy the fruits of our labour. (Pictures of the event depict many happy faces)



Workers & Youngsters Celebrate in Moncton





Dreamers and Doers

by Gordon Pole

Bell at Beinn Breagh

For many years, there have been those who emigrated from Newfoundland to the mainland, but in spite of good intentions ended up settling in Cape Breton. This is the account of one who did the opposite, that is, was headed for Newfoundland but stayed in Cape Breton.

Alexander Graham Bell and family had been on his way with his in-laws to vacation in Newfoundland. His in-laws, the Hubbards, had heavily invested in the Caledonia Coal Mines of Cape Breton. He wanted to see into what they had poured all the money. He had read a book entitled *Baddeck and that Sort of Thing* and, as a result, had chosen the spot as a stopover. For Bell, it was one of those chance happenings that have a lasting impact on a person's life.

Bell may have lived in Canada and the United States, even eventually becoming an American citizen, but at heart he was a 'Scot'. His articulate speech retained the soft burr and the hills of Cape Breton warmed his heart, bringing back childhood memories of his roaming the hills of Scotland.

Beinn Breagh

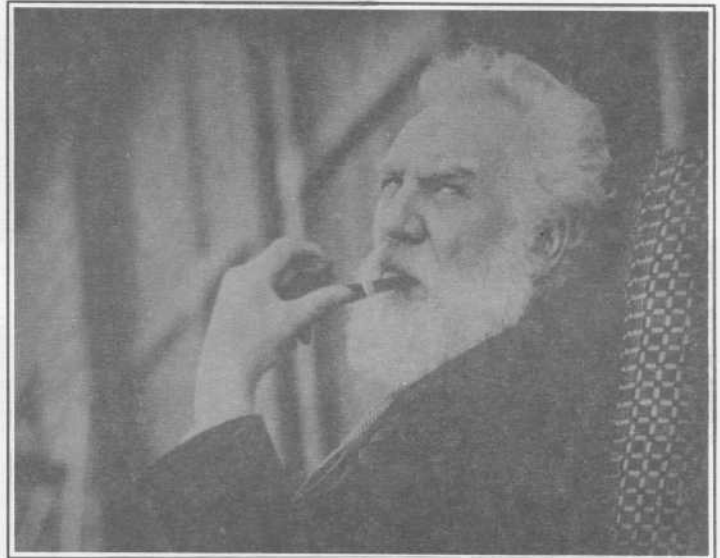
They were so pleased with the area that they cut short the Newfoundland trip by staying in Baddeck. At first, they stayed in the Telegraph House Inn but as the trips became regular summer sojourns, the Bells bought a property at Red Head across the bay from the town. He named the site Beinn Breagh (celtic for "beautiful mountain") and eventually acquired 600 acres.

Beinn Breagh became his escape from the oppressive summer heat and the social demands placed upon him at home in Washington. It was a place to think, to try new things, to indulge himself in what interested him. These interests ranged from the development of a hydrofoil which held the world's speed record

for many years, to the application of genetic studies in the raising of sheep.

Litigation as a result of counter claims to his invention of the telephone took much of his time and energy. This consumed precious time that could otherwise have allowed him, along with J.A.D. McCurdy, Casey Baldwin and Glen Curtiss to bring a plane into the air before the Wright Brothers. They still managed to register the first powered flight by a Canadian in 1908 aboard the *Red Wing*. This was followed by the *White Wing*, the *June Bug*, the *Loon* and finally the *Silver Dart*.

phonograph calling it the "graphophone" (gramophone). Edison did not appreciate it and said that all he did was turn the name around! His hydrofoil was not new nor were experiments in powered



Alexander Graham Bell, 1847-1922.

Entering the Wood

Bell was not an inventor of the same mould as Edison, Fessenden or Marconi. These were men driven with a desire to make financial success of their work. Edison claimed that he "invented to make money so that he could invent", Marconi was quick to patent and enforce his inventions and Fessenden ultimately gained financial security from his.

Possibly because of the financial security he had gained from the telephone and aided by the fact that the Hubbards were wealthy, Bell could take the time to blaze new trails. He once said: "We should not keep forever on the public road, going only where others have gone; we should leave the beaten track occasionally and enter the woods."

He did not always "enter the woods". He made improvements to Edison's

flight but he did "enter the woods" with the "photophone", a forerunner of the photoelectric cell. His experiments with the "tetrahedral" kite were successful enough to lift a man nine meters into the air. His innovations included a laminated wood propeller, triangular ailerons and the use of "dope" to reduce air resistance on the wings.

Bell also hypothesized that sound could be used to locate and avoid icebergs, anticipating "sonar". He invented a surgical probe for locating bullets in a body which was used fairly successfully until the development of X-rays technology. He built a vacuum jacket years before the invention of the iron lung.

Perhaps the greatest legacy for Canadians were the Bell shops set up in 1892 and managed by an ex foreman from the

Public Service 2000 - A Question of Attitudes

by Eugène Aucoin

On December 12th, 1990, one year to the day after the kickoff that launched all those task forces/discussion groups/teams/committees and sub-committees, the PS 2000 White Paper was tabled, putting into effect the policy of the Government for the future of the Public Service.

In a nutshell (reduced from 105 pages), here are some highlights in the form of selected quotes from the White Paper that are of general interest:

-as much authority as possible will be placed in the hands of front line employees and managers;

-the emphasis will be placed on providing advice and guidance to departments rather than on telling them how to manage their affairs;

-person-years will no longer be centrally controlled and allocated. Managers will be free to decide the most cost-effective means of getting the job done, using any appropriate mix of resources (salary, operating, and minor capital funds);

-Treasury Board will review all mandatory common services to determine if they can become optional in a cost-effective manner.

-to facilitate career development, once individuals have won appointment to a particular position at a given level, they and their managers will be actively encouraged to fulfil developmental and organizational needs through deployment, on a voluntary basis, to any other position at the same group and level in the public service, provided that the requirements of the position are met. (Note: this initiative will be implemented gradually and over a period of time.)

-the Government proposes to reduce the number of occupational groups by some two-thirds and, as appropriate,

ate, the number of levels within these groups - the principal change affecting occupational groups and classifications is to create a single group to be known as General Services Group - GE. This group, numbering in excess of 100,000 Public Servants, will comprise most of the groups now part of the Administrative Support and Administrative and Foreign Service categories;

-In the area of Pay and Benefits, the Government proposes to introduce:

- a) core remuneration to include pension benefits;*
- b) performance rewards a portion of which could be built into the individual's base salary, and*
- c) flexible benefits to be chosen by the individual.*

The foregoing represents part of the changes introduced. Everyone is strongly encouraged to read the White Paper which has been distributed to all staff recently.

PS 2000 is all about an attitude change, away from excessive bureaucracy toward a client-oriented service. As such, it goes beyond the specific changes introduced in the White Paper. It strives for a whole new cultural environment in the federal government.

Charity & Recycling

St. John's District Office and GTA staff are environment conscious by recycling paper waste. All personnel are encouraged to shred their paper-waste products, which are collected by a local recycling company. The rate of three cents per pound is paid for our efforts and donated to the local food bank, City Index.

At a September 1990 staff meeting, our employees voted to implement a year-round collection of non-perishable foods for the same charity. This is working well. A collection receptacle is placed in our lunch room area as a friendly reminder. Once a month, or when we have a sufficient amount, a staff member volunteers to drop it off to City Index. Everyone feels this is a worthwhile project and plans are to continue this practice indefinitely.

United Way Campaign - 1990

Summary Report

	Halifax	Moncton	Saint John	Charlottetown
Number of employees	22	50	9	2
Participation rate	59%	80%	66%	100%
Objective	\$1,000	\$3,800	\$592	\$338
% of objective reached	102%	109%	100%	100%
Per donor contribution	\$78	\$103	\$100	\$169
Award	gold	gold	gold	gold

I would like to thank our employees who contributed to the 1990 United Way Campaign. As a result of your generous contributions, the various participating offices were successful in meeting their objectives and received Gold Awards from United Way.

To the campaign coordinators: Mary Clare Butler in Charlottetown, Keith Dares in Halifax, Bernice Sears in Saint John and Dale Snowdon in Moncton, thanks for your dedication and the success achieved in this important endeavour.

Pierre Boudreau



Spectrum Supervisors Annual Meeting



The annual meeting of the Spectrum Control Supervisors from each of our district offices was held from November 29th to the 31st in the regional office boardroom. In addition to those in the above photograph, several people participated from the regional office and from headquarters.

These annual meetings are extremely valuable to all involved as they are the only face-to-face meetings of the group to discuss various aspects of their work, to resolve problems and to review the progress made. Those in the photo are the regular attendees at the meeting and are, from left to right, in the back row: **Kevin Bennett**, St. John's, **Henry Klain**, Halifax, and **Kevin Ball**, Saint John; in the front row, from left to right: **Fred Grezel** and **Al Daly** of the regional office.

Spectrum-efficient future?

In suggesting steps toward improved ways of managing radio frequency spectrum, Janice Obuchowski, an American authority in spectrum management, said while addressing members of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Society Symposium (IEEE) last fall: "What was true of the impending energy crisis in the late '60's is even more true of the impending spectrum shortage of the '90's: all of your expertise, all of your science, all of your capacity for hard work will be irrelevant to spectrum efficiency unless we can somehow build incentives to make your customers and executives care about it... If both public and private radio licensees were given some form of property rights and authorized to sell their spare capacity, chances are that many of them would jump at the opportunity. With funds derived from the sale of spectrum, public and private licensees could afford to re-locate to other bands, buy more spectrum-efficient equipment, or even, for many fixed operations, satisfy their communications needs with optical fibre." Mrs Obuchowski's words may have been echoed here in Canada; in an evaluation of DOC's Radio Frequency Spectrum Management Program, one proposal is to "examine, where feasible, possibility of moving to a system which encourages optimal allocation of spectrum - e.g. economic efficiency".

Bell at Beinn Breach (continued from page 10)

Williams shops in Boston. These Bell shops became Northern Electric and ultimately Northern Telecom, a world class supplier of telecommunications.

A legacy to Cape Breton

Baddeck remains a sleepy village on the Bras D'Or Lake. The Telegraph House Inn remains, still owned by the Dunlops, the same family that bought it in the 1850's and rented rooms to the Bell entourage each summer. You can still sleep in the small room Bell occupied at the front of the inn overlooking Main Street and the lake, where Bell's hydrofoil sliced through the calm waters, where on a cold February day, the Silver Dart rose into the air and into history.

Beinn Breagh still overlooks the town and is still owned and occupied periodically by the Bell heirs, surrounded by the green hills that feed Bells sheep and

where a gentle, white-bearded "Santa Claus" in golfing knickers walked hand in hand with Mabel, his wife.

Alexander Graham Bell and Mabel are buried there in a simple grave on the hill overlooking the bay where for a time Canada made world history.



Beinn Breagh still overlooks Baddeck.

In the town is housed the Bell National Historic Site, a museum containing original artifacts and copies of all the Bell papers. One room contains the remnant of the original hydrofoil and a reconstructed one. The collection fills the site with models and actual prototypes are on display, complemented with films, slides and video displays.

Efforts are underway to expand and improve the site into a world class centre housing such items as a replica of the *Silver Dart*. Better facilities for the handicapped are required. A workshop and teaching area must be developed, more interactive exhibits must be designed, additional artifacts must be housed and shown.

Jack Stephens, Superintendent of the site, received Minister Masse last summer, and continues to communicate with our regional office staff in Moncton.