



Montreal
June, 2005

Spartans Newsletter Summer 2005

Our steadily growing group of RCA, Spar, and EMS retirees met for lunch and reminiscences on May 5, 2005, at the now familiar Voyageur restaurant in the Dorval Best Western Hotel. The seventy members who sat down to lunch after an animated cocktail hour, were joined for the first time by **Bruce Berridge, Mike Boysen, John and Pierrette Stewart, and Dean Collis**, who came all the way from Raleigh North Carolina to join us. Our group stretched the restaurant to near capacity, but no one seemed to mind and the food and service were very good. Rather than change the venue or the format of future luncheons, we may have to apply a first come first served rule to stay within the room capacity.

News Items

- We noted the passing of **Doug McDougal**. We gave our sympathy to **Alan Powell**, on the loss of his wife who died on the day of our last festive season luncheon, and to **Daisy Scammel** in absentia, who recently lost her brother and was unable to attend.
- The timing was right for **Claire McCole** to join us before leaving for a three week holiday in Europe.
- Distant but warm greetings were sent to all, along with her membership renewal, by **Ruth McWhinnie**, whose bean counting past we only mention in private conversation.

Correspondence

- From **Lloyd Martin**

"Betty and I had lunch with **Roy Machum** today, and I thought that you might like a couple of photos of him. Roy is considerably stronger now than he has been for much of the past year since he fell and broke his hip. As you probably know, Roy had two strokes in the 90's, and also heart surgery in about 1994. His wife, Barbara, died in June 1994. All in all, he has been having a pretty rough time, but lately he has been getting around quite well in his battery-operated wheel chair. He goes out on Tuesdays and Thursdays to Good Companions (a senior citizens club in Ottawa), and various other outings and he seems relatively cheerful. He gets around within a block or so of his residence just using the wheel chair."

- From **John Stewart**

"For any of the old RCA communications and space operations people who might be interested, we had a visit in Florida last month from **Dean and Louise Collis**. They now live in Wake Forest, North Carolina and would like to be remembered to their old RCA acquaintances. Dean is retired and Louise is President of her own software development company."

- From a **Dean Collis** connection



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On Monday, 5/02/05, Dean Collis told me about the subject (luncheon) event. We both reside in Raleigh, N.C. I was never at SPAR but worked for RCA, in Montreal and Camden. On such short notice, I regret that I cannot attend but would have liked to be there and socialize with the group since, I had worked with a number of the attendees. Maybe, next time. I understand that Dean will plan on attending and is currently on his way to Montreal.

I retired from Nortel Networks and Bell Canada International after a long time offshore in the UK, Europe and the Middle East doing very large systems projects for Commercial and Government Customers and Raleigh, N.C. was our Company Home Base.....hence, my wife and I decided that it was a good place to stay, play a lot of golf and enjoy the nice climate.

Sorry to miss the subject event but please keep me posted on any other activities in case we can coordinate a timely trip to Montreal. Even though you are under the SPAR umbrella I am sure that RCA folks are allowed in. Do you have a Membership List or how do you keep track of the Pensioners? You are doing a good thing by keeping contact with the RCA/SPAR Pensioners.

Best Regards,

Sophie & Bud Tucker,

Raleigh, N.C.

(919) 781-4277

- From **Jack Sutherland**

"Thanks for your update. The photos were great. I hope you can do more this year. However they would be more interesting if you could identify the people. Again I will not be able to attend your get together as we have an event in Ottawa about the same time. MAYBE next year. I will mail a check today to help with the photos. Regards, Jack".

We reacted to Jack's complaint and his financial offer by making larger name badges this time and will also provide names for the luncheon photos. We were not completely successful in determining who had fast Internet connections so since we believe most have fast connections, we will be quite generous with attached photos.

Absent With Excuse

- **Peter Shield** Hello Lorne

It was great to hear from you again and I am very interested in getting together with some old friends from the Spar days. I know I missed last years get togethers as well because of travel and unfortunately at present I am planning to be in the USA again on the 5th May however that might change. We get involved in all sorts of interesting activities now including Military systems, satellite communications and particle physics research and I am actually busier than I have ever been before. If my meeting dates change and I stay in



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Montreal that day then I will let you know and if its OK with you, can I just show up and pay my dues upon arrival?

- From **Al Lawson**

-Package returned from **Ross Way**. I was lucky to contact a son of Ross who is now in a residence in St Sauveur, and is in the early stages of Alzheimer's.

-**Irma Carson** called **Gil & Wilma Branchflower**. They are interested in joining SPARTans and even coming to one of our luncheons, although they now live in Maryland. I had previously got their e-mail address from Ruth McWhinnie, so I fired off a recent newsletter, history, and application form. They received and acknowledged their receipt, so I have now sent a few of the pictures taken at our last luncheon.

- **Keith Howard** is awaiting minor surgery towards the end of May, and will delay joining SPARTans
- **Ilse Smejkal** can't make it. She escorts a seniors group every Thursday until the end of May
- **Stefan Zadrozny** is travelling in Europe
- **John Pauch** was very much looking forward to attending but medical problems for both he and his wife intervened
- **Greg and Peggy Baylis** are on their annual visit to family and friends in Ontario and will try to join us for the next luncheon
- **Paul Loiselle** is not lost, he just has a new Montreal location and phone number

Last minute feedback:

"It was great to see every one. When we were in our prime, the group was unique and exceptional, setting world standards in telecommunications. Unfortunately Louise and I are unlikely to make the December meeting – the weather you know. We look forward to getting the newsletter and pictures etc. Louise and Dean (Collis)"

That's all for now. Keep the news coming and spread the word by grapevine, which is our best method of expanding our numbers, and increasing the camaraderie.

Your reporter

Lorne Keyes