



Montreal  
July, 2006

## **Spartans Newsletter Summer 2006**

Warm spring weather and the prospect of meeting old friends produced a record attendance of 79 for the Spartans spring luncheon. We welcomed several first time visitors, easily making up for regulars who could not join us. This most enjoyable luncheon maintained a tradition of camaraderie and good food in a relaxed atmosphere, and now familiar surroundings.

### **First Time Visitors**

|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Saul & Jackie Koblin | 2. Jack & Mary-Louise Sutherland |
| 3. Selwyn Bell          | 4. Joanne Butterworth            |
| 5. Ric Cox              | 6. Nicole Lefebvre (Legault)     |
| 7. Bronwen Williams     | 8. Marc Garneau                  |

We were particularly pleased to welcome **Marc Garneau** as a guest of **Bronwen Williams**. Many of you know that Bronwen's brother Dave was one of the original Canadian astronauts along with our guest. Marc particularly wanted to meet some of the people who had worked on both the Canadarm used on his shuttle flights, and on the communications and radar satellites that he came to appreciate while he was president of Canada's space agency. He spoke most warmly and sincerely of our groups contribution to Canada's fine reputation in space research and applications.

Some of the first time visitors were unfamiliar to even our senior members as their employment history began in the 40's and 50's. Long time supporter Jack Sutherland and his wife Mary-Louise were finally able to join us and share reminiscences with old colleagues. We hope to see all our first time visitors at future luncheons.

For reasons not determined, a reserved sign had been placed in one of the booths, which was respected by our well disciplined group, and remained unoccupied. A hasty addition of tables accommodated everyone, but for future luncheons, we now have a top estimate of 84 for the seating capacity of this restaurant.

**Curtis Ingerville** once again generously provided one of his hand crafted mantle clocks that was raffled along with silver jewelry crafted and donated by **Bronwen Williams**. The lucky winner of the clock was **Tony Nachou**, and the winning ticket holder for the jewelry, **Ric Cox** did not claim his prize immediately, confessing later that he was embarrassed to win as a first timer. This excessive modesty will surely be eliminated in future visits.

### **News Items**

- 1) In the spirit of sharing interesting events of the past, **Rea Hall** sent in an account of an incident from a field assignment that is contained in an attachment to this mailing.
- 2) Based on a recent holiday in Spain, **Henry & Elsa Hore** prepared an interesting account of their visit that is contained in an attachment to this mailing.

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- 3) During the luncheon, **Roger Rak** mentioned that he was in regular contact with Andrej Tennesens, son of former RCA employee **Nick Tennesens**, now deceased. I easily recalled Nick as a fine gentleman of the old world and a very good design detailer in the drafting department. I also remembered that I had a good picture of Nick and others taken in the early stages of the RCA Satcom program in the 70's, and promised to try to locate it. I began my search with little hope of early or even eventual success, but to my amazement, the subject picture was in the first folder of the first box I opened. Both Roger and Andrej were pleased to add to their photographic collections, this rare photo of a father and friend in his working environment. A copy of the picture is included in the luncheon photo gallery.
- 4) Although not known personally to many of our Montreal group, we were surprised and saddened by the death of John MacNaughton, engineer and corporate Chief Executive Officer of Spar for many years.
- 5) **Lilly Dyke** from Denmark was in Montreal during June as a guest of **Doug and Donna Gilligan**. She regretted not seeing more of her former colleagues, and asked me to give them her warmest greetings through our newsletter. As I extracted \$10 for her lapsed membership, she insisted in her usual direct way that this was for the current year not the past year, as she had not received the previous newsletter. Even the promise of sending her the back issue could not convince her to part with another \$10, claiming both Spartan pioneer and overseas privileges.

### Regrets

Luncheon regrets are at least a partial substitute for not seeing these people directly.

- Unfortunately Letty and I won't be able to make it this time as I have a conflicting appointment that I just can't break. Should be able to attend the next one. **Bob & Letty Cox**
- **Ise Smejkal** cannot attend because she always hosts tours of old Montreal on Thursdays in May for seniors. She will see us in December
- Can you please enter my name and my wife Joyce's name as attendees for this bunfight ? We are looking forward to seeing so many of the old team from RCA/Spar/EMS/MDA there and catching up on the many events that have occurred since we were working there together many years ago. It will be very pleasant to have such company again and I understand the dining is also recommended. **Keith & Joyce Howard**. And then unfortunately, their regrets:  
Hello Lorne, Thanks for the listing of attendees but I'm sorry to say that my name and that of my wife Joyce will have to be removed. Unfortunately, as the result of a medical emergency April 21, my wife will be unable to attend and so I will not be attending either. I really regret this turnabout of our plans but it won't be possible for us to attend - hopefully next year will allow us to be there without last-minute change of plans. Wishing you a really happy and successful luncheon with all the many friends who will be there and I hope we can make it for the next time. Keith.
- Pierrette and I had been looking forward to attending the lunch and meeting our old acquaintances and friends on May the 4th. Unfortunately I have to undergo internal surgery on May the 3rd and therefore will be unable to travel to Montreal. Please extend our best wishes to all the SPARTANS

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and we look forward to seeing you again at the next luncheon. We both thank you and your committee for the hard work and the many hours you devote to organizing all the affairs of the SPARTANS. Regards, **John and Pierrette Stewart**.

- Thanks for your e-mails. I did email you an answer to your invitation. Still working full time and luncheon is not possible for me. Perhaps may be for another occasion. Say hello to all and please do not forget to tell all that my friend Nicole Bourdeau just got married. May be you weren't aware but she did this very privately. Now, whether she wants everyone to know, you'll have to dig that one up with Cécile Pagé, but since she sent out a general email to all her friends, I gather it would be nice to wish her well. Regards, **Ginette Cain**
- Lorne, sorry but my wife requires a wheelchair now and it would be too difficult to get to Montreal for us. Good luck with your luncheon. **Harold Linke**
- Hi Lorne: Please list me under REGRETS. At 4 o'clock, May 4, my wife and I are invited for an 80 year birthday party for a longtime friend. It would be too much good eating in too short a time to attend both events. Greetings to all and I hope to be at the Spartan Christmas Luncheon in December. **Svend Berg**
- Dear Lorne, Sorry that I didn't reply earlier ... excuse, problem with one eye ... but I would come anyway if it wasn't on Thursday! Since my retirement, every Thursday has been my golf day! How can I miss it? Even if it involves all of you old friends. If you don't play golf you probably won't understand it, but if you do, you will, and all the other golf players at the luncheon will understand, that golf is a sort of an addiction. It becomes the priority in ones life and I cannot help it. Anyway, if it rains (or snows) I shall come to see you anyway, even if there will not be any more room for me at the table. All the best to everybody and to you ... **Stefan Zadrozny**, and my reply: That's a pretty good excuse Stefan, but unless you play golf right through the winter, we expect to see you at our Christmas luncheon.
- Thank you, Lorne, for letting us know about the Spring Luncheon for the Spartans. We can't make it this time, more's the pity, but hope the next one we will be able to make the trip north again. We enjoyed ourselves very much at the last luncheon. Give our regards to everyone. **Gil and Wilma Branchflower**.
- Unfortunately I can't stay for the dinner, but I would love to come and share a drink and a chat during the "bar hour". I seem to be getting busier instead of winding down, I'm picking up speed. Maybe I'm getting older and things just seem to be faster. I missed the Christmas luncheon, but I'm definitely not missing the chat time. Thanks for keeping me in the loop, **Wanda Daniel**
- **Gilberte Gauthier** - cannot attend, recovering from eye operation, nearing 80 but still independent.
- And the following e-mail conversation with **Ruth McWhinnie**:  
Hi Lorne, Please give all those OLD FOLK that I worked with my very best wishes. Secondly, would you ask Nicolle Bourdeau to send me her e-mail address? I have much to thank her, for all the richness of my retirement, 17 years and counting! Bon Appetite and good health to you all.  
Thanks.

Ruth: I will deliver your greetings to the old gang most gladly, and pass your message to Nicole. I will check on your dues and let you know. (Just checked, 2006 dues not paid, so better shake that piggy bank). Any further contact with Terry Cagney?

No I haven't seen Terry for a long time. His address is 5227 Lost Lake Rd, Nanaimo, BC V9T 5E6. I'll have to cut back somehow to find that 10 bucks, but you will get it. Ruth

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- Dear Mr. Keyes. Thank you for the invitation, unfortunately I cannot come, but as you wrote, we are forgiven if we are not coming. This is very nice. I still like to receive the Spartans newsletters. Sincerely, **Mathilde Grosswindhager**
- Dear Lorne, it is with regret that I won't be able to attend the luncheon I am in the process of moving to the Kawartha Lakes near Peterborough that weekend and that would not work. I wish you all a nice reunion and a good lunch. **Mike Boysen**
- Lorne: Sorry I cannot attend the luncheon. Husband, James, fell off his bike yesterday and broke his left clavicle along with other scrapes. Unhappily it hasn't knocked sense into his head as he's out mowing the lawn right now. I have to stay home to see that he doesn't do something real stupid like going up a ladder. **Eila Tallon**

### Attendance

|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Al Lawson               | Alphons Evers                 |
| Antoine Nachou          | Barbara Stimpson              |
| Barbara Walker          | Bill Corless                  |
| Bronwen Williams        | Cécile Pagé                   |
| Charles Albright        | Claude Richard                |
| Corinne Poitras         | Curtis Ingerville             |
| Daisy Scammell          | Dave & Violet Ahmed           |
| Derek Cox               | Doug Gilligan                 |
| Doug Jung               | Ed Biernat                    |
| Ed Eve                  | Freleigh & Hazel Osborne      |
| George & Dorothy Larder | Gil & Pat Kerr                |
| Gilles Lachapelle       | Greg Baylis                   |
| Henri Claireaux         | Henry & Elsa Hore             |
| Irma Carson             | Jack & Mary-Louise Sutherland |
| James Sisley            | Jane Robinson                 |
| Joanne Butterworth      | Joe & Carmen McNally          |
| Joe & Mary Soul         | John & Jackie Burrows         |
| Leo Arsenaault          | Lionel & Jacqueline Giasson   |
| Lloyd & Betty Martin    | Lloyd Slaven                  |
| Lorne & Riggie Keyes    | Louis Laroche                 |
| Manfred Altmann         | Marc Garneau                  |
| Marion MacCallum        | Millie MacLeod                |
| Milt Lillo              | Mohamed Abdelhadi & Marcelle  |
| Nicole Bourdeau         | Nicole Lefebvre (Legault)     |
| Paul & Hanne Weijers    | Peter & Daveen Garland        |
| Raymond Gosselin        | Rea Hall                      |

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|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Richard (Ric) Cox    | Roger Louie              |
| Roger Rak            | Roland Niklaus           |
| Saul & Jackie Koblin | Selwyn Bell              |
| Sim Shek             | Ted Phillips             |
| Wal Duk              | Wanda Daniel (cocktails) |
| Yolande Garneau      |                          |

It was a pleasant surprise to see that our energetic secretary, Al Lawson was sufficiently recovered from his recent knee operation to attend the luncheon. Our warmest appreciation also goes to our volunteer photographers Roger Rak, Lloyd Martin, and particularly Gil Kerr for not only recording the event but providing edited and possibly enhanced versions for the photo archive.

Keep Thursday 30 November open for the next Spartans luncheon.

Your reporter

Lorne Keyes