



Spartans Summer Newsletter 2007

Retirees of RCA and successor companies Spar, EMS, and MDA gathered once more for a pleasant luncheon on May 3, 2007 in Le Voyageur restaurant at the Best Western Dorval. Last minute cancellations and no shows were offset by many first time visitors, and we hope to see them again, along with our regulars.

Richard Allen	Eric Caballero	Gus and Margaret Gross
Ken Perry	Ed Sorochan	Muzaffer Zaidi
Liesbeth Boysen	Jean Gondos	Jimmy Huang
Marc Donato		

Housekeeping announcements by secretary **Al Lawson**, and treasurer **George Larder**, included notice of a raffle of items donated by **Curt Ingerville**. His hand crafted mantle clock was won by **Ed Eve**, and **Irma Carson** was the happy recipient of a stuffed animal, RCA's mascot "Nipper". Curt's continuing generosity and the salesmanship of ticket volunteers **Jane Robinson** and **Claire McCole**, plus the enthusiastic response of members, greatly help George's budget and cost control plan. The luncheon was a convenient occasion to mark Mike Gondos' 84th birthday, and the 80th birthday of regular attendee **Henry Hore**.

News Items

One of our honorary members, **Ross Way** passed away on 30 January, 2007. **Joe Soul** and **Al Lawson** found their way to the Mount Royal Funeral Complex for Ross' funeral service. **Mike Gondos** and his wife Jean were the only other RCA / Spar representatives there. There were family members, previous neighbors, and friends present for this quiet ceremony.

During our many years as colleagues, he never spoke to me of his service in the Royal Canadian Air Force during WW2, and it was always his radio amateur activities that he spoke of with great enthusiasm when we met.

The name **Archie Crawford** appeared in a recent Gazette obituary without any reference to work at RCA. **Mohamed Abdelhadi**, confirmed that it was indeed the same Archie Crawford that used to work in the RCA communications group in the 60's and 70's. Although we never worked directly together our paths crossed once in Tehran in 1975. **Don Mason**, the general manager at the time, had arrived unexpectedly without reservations and pulled rank by bouncing me out of my room, obliging me to share a hotel room with Archie.

Some of you may remember **Jessie Yenor**, who passed away peacefully on January 28, 2007. She was a longtime employee of SPAR and a member of Grace Anglican Church. The obituary noted that she is remembered for her honest and generous nature.

From **Alphons Evers** we received notice of the death of **Steven Chokly** on February 13, 2007. Steve was a mechanical engineer who emigrated to Canada from Hungary after the uprising in 1956.



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The family of **Bob Sturrock** informed us of his death on May 31st. Although not a member of the Spartans, Bob was an engineer with the Communications Research Centre and will be remembered by many RCA retirees who worked on the Alouette/ISIS program in the late 50's and early 60's.

Through **Irma Carson**, I had an interesting exchange of correspondence with **Merle McCubbin**, widow of **Bob McCubbin** who died in 1999. Both worked at RCA in the 60's and 70's and Merle wrote "Hi Lorne, A voice from the past, and NO, I never sent you a valentine! This is the closest one you will ever get. I won't admit to sending you one, even in my old age because, I never did it. On second thought, I sincerely wish you a very happy Valentines Day and lots of love from me.

Irma Carson and I are really great friends and I visit her on a regular basis. I have family in Quebec, so my visits to Canada over the past few years, have been on an almost regular basis." In a follow-on exchange she mentions a recent trip up the west coast with Irma and a visit with **Terry Cagney** in Nanaimo BC (with picture), and this spring plans to meet another RCA alumnus **Cedric Baxter** in the Washington DC area.

Responding to the newsletter request for memorabilia, my regular correspondent **Bruce Aikenhead** provided a 1970 picture of the ISIS B test team taken at the Goddard Space Flight Centre near Washington. Many names were filled in by luncheon attendees, and I hope readers will help with some of the names Bruce and others have struggled with.

In a similar vein, Roger Rak has provided a 1987 picture of a Spar 10th anniversary group that may challenge our recognition abilities.

Evelyn Feehan writes as follows: "Dear Lorne: I enjoyed receiving the Winter newsletter about past co-workers. Especially interesting was the enclosed photo of the Relay team. I could put names to some and, although some were familiar, the names of others escaped me. Would you use the numbered outline to put names to faces. I am sure many ex-RCA personnel would appreciate it. Keep up the good work. Regards Evelyn

Dean Collis hoped to attend our May luncheon but had to decline at the last moment. He is in regular contact with **John Stewart** and reports that he is still very ill in Toronto's Sunnybrook hospital. Former colleagues at the luncheon expressed concern, and all wanted to pass along their best wishes to John and Pierrette.

George Pastuzko, reported in a recent phone conversation that **Ed Danofsky** was very ill. You may remember both George and Ed from the 50's and 60's at RCA. George was a technician in the communications group, and Eddy worked in the broadcast group, and later set up his own broadcasting consulting service which often involved climbing high towers when riggers were not available. This was always a concern to his wife **Betty Boda** who also worked at RCA in the early days. I recall that I last saw him several years ago at an Alma Mater Lenoir dinner.

It may be some time before first time visitor **Ken Perry** visits us again if he relocates as planned. During lunch he told us that he plans to become a neighbor of **Andy** and **Susan Sztyk** in Panama. All our best wishes Ken, and remember that a \$10 annual



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membership in the Spartans is a good way for you and others outside Montreal to keep in touch with old friends and colleagues.

New Members

George Skinner	Art Redhead
Gloria Folkins	George Pastuzko
Mike Leahy	Bill Perry

Honorary Members

Roy Machum and Curtis Ingerville

Regrets

Hello Al, Thanks a bunch for your invitation together with the news on the members. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend this Spring as I will be visiting Quettreville in Normandy France researching the village records for my family genealogy on the paternal side. I am currently up to year 1601 on my father's side and year 1450 on my mother's so wish me luck. Please transmit my best regards to the members and friends. **Henri Claireaux**

Paul Loiselle will not attend as his wife is ill and needs a lot of his tender care. Many will remember Paul as a long time RCA employee and organizer of the Alma Mater Lenoir retirees group that is a predecessor of our Spartans group.

Al, thank you so much for your prompt follow-up after my application submission to SPARTans. I had not been aware that such a group had been formed. As a long time employee of RCA (Montreal) and later Spar (1954 - 1991) and now somewhat out of touch with all my Montreal friends, living for the past 9 years in Woodstock NB, I'm delighted to receive any news I can about old Montreal acquaintances and former co-workers. Consequently the SPARTans newsletter was much enjoyed. I would certainly like to attend the spring luncheon but at this time I am not able to confirm my attendance. Regards **Bill Perry**

Although I having been using computers for many years it was only in January this year that I decided to enter cyberspace with Email and Internet services so I am new to this method of communication. The history of SPARTans was very interesting since I was 27 years with RCA/Spar/EMS starting at 1001 Lenoir St. St Henri, your directory of members included many people that I can remember but noticed that Mike Golder was missing (gone back to Alberta) ? also Eric Lavender, surprised to know that Ruth McWhinnie is now in Nanaimo, that's only about 25km from our home in Ladysmith BC.

Re the Spar 10th anniversary photos, Ed Eve looks quite different, also John Zacharatos who I knew on the Cento Project. Is Peter Garland still singing G & S ? Glad to know that Ray Hall is still with us and wondered about Randy Martin. I believe that Jim Leahy passed away some years ago. So that's it for now, keep in touch
Best regards **Mike Leahy** and Pam



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We are not sure what type of well known West Coast product Mike was using while trying to identify the people in Roger's 10th anniversary photo, but most of us agree that Ed Eve and John Zacharatos are not in the photo. We had a good laugh at Ed's expense during the luncheon news report, so why ruin a good story with facts.

Al: Sorry for stalling with my answer re luncheon, had hoped that by now my problems would be history, unfortunately I had a sort of a relapse and have just started a new medication, hopefully this one will work. The sorry conclusion is that you should take me off the list and please convey my greetings and salutations to all attendees. Hopefully by the Fall I will be operational ! Have a nice get together. Adam a.k.a. **Dan Mercik**.

Thanks for letting us know about the luncheon. We won't be able to attend this time but hope to see you all in the winter. Have fun! **Wilma and Gil Branchflower**.

Lloyd Martin and Betty are doing well but are a little too busy and will join us next time.

Bob and Letty Cox send their best regards but have a conflict with a medical appointment and plan to join us next time.

Greg Baylis - wife Peggy had a fall in the home and sustained a broken collar bone.

Wanda Daniel - just started a new job at MDA, cannot afford any time off, was working at Advantech; sends regards to all, will send membership fee.

Evelyn Feehan - cannot make it this time; hopes to be at the next luncheon.

Gloria Folkins - new member, recruited by Jane Robinson; was all set to come, but something cropped up; is looking forward to the next opportunity to join us.

Lionel Giasson - is going to Quebec City; so will not make it this time

Also sending regrets are:

Keith Howard	Mary Buchanan (volunteering)	Millie McLeod
Ilse Smejkal (volunteering)	John Zacharatos	Bronwen Williams
John Elvidge (next time)	Jackie Langford	Roger Louie (working)
George Pastuszko (travel)	Remi Petitclerc	Claude Richard
John Runeckles	Barbara Walker	Stefan Zadrozny (golf?)
Gareth Lewis (Victoria BC)		

The fun contents of these newsletters, are the comments and news from members, so keep the memorabilia, news, and pictures coming.

Your reporter
Lorne Keyes