

July, 2013

Spartans Summer Newsletter 2013

The Spring Luncheon at Ristorante Linguini remains the principal way of collecting news and dues and sharing the collected information with members via this newsletter. The numbers may have been lower than hoped for but not surprising for our aging group with many competing priorities including inevitable medical appointments. Our faithful regulars Greg and Peggy Baylis could not join us as they sold their home of more than fifty years in NDG and were moving into a West Island retirement home. I often speak with Greg by phone and he had informed me of the impending move and also spoke of health problems and a weight loss of twenty pounds, which must have been very noticeable on his already lean frame.

Claude Richard, a great friend of deceased member Curt Ingerville, was a guest at our Spring Luncheon. He informed us that not only had he finished the last of the famous mantle clocks that had been the subject of several popular raffles, but also that in closing up the Ingerville residence he had found components for two more such clocks and planned to finish them for our benefit. Thank you sincerely Claude.

Several Ottawa members including Charles Morton, Heather Tanguay, Tony Raab and Pat Hammond competed for the greatest distance travelled to attend and seemed content that no prize was awarded.

I want to thank our committee members for their continuing efforts in maintaining our group. They all deserve a special award for persistence and patience in rounding everyone up for this luncheon.

Al Lawson	Picture taker, list maintainer, communications director
George Larder	Diligent Treasurer
Gil Kerr	Luncheon organizer
Margaret Gross	Webmaster
Ed Sorochan	No title yet invented
Nicole Bourdeau	Chief recruiter, informed us in late Spring that she would not be able to attend having suffered a painful attack of gallstones requiring surgery. After some delays the operation was carried out successfully and she was able to attend our committee meeting in late May in the early stages of recovery looking fine. Welcome back Nicole.

By the time you receive this letter you probably have been informed that the membership dues of twenty dollars will cover a two year period, and in spite of his warning that he no longer buys green bananas I believe even Paul Weijers will

agree with this planning horizon. You may also have been informed that the web site is operational due to the efforts of our webmaster and committee member Margaret Gross, and secretary Al Lawson. For wired members this will now be the main method of member communications and sharing. I urge members to make the sometimes difficult step of writing down their recollections and combing their files for photos to submit to Margaret or any committee member for posting on the member only section of our web site. For any SPARtans communication with our committee, please use our new e-mail address: club.spartans@yahoo.com You may be surprised at the level of interest that will reward your efforts.

Members are reminded that the membership list is intended for Spartan social purposes only.

News Items

It is with great regret that I inform you of the passing of former colleagues and Spartan members, and special friends of our group.

George Larder noticed in a recent Saturday's Montreal Gazette the obituary for **Cathy Heaney**. If memory is correct, Cathy worked in Spar's traffic department. Some may remember her late husband Bob who worked for Spar and then NSI, until they declared bankruptcy in year 2000.

Old friend **Dave Andean**, a long time employee of the Communications Research Centre CRC informed us of the death of **Bob Warren**, a Canadian space pioneer whom I knew well from working together on the ISIS scientific satellite program and the Communications Technology Satellite CTS program. He died on Saturday, June 1 at 86 years of age and had been in poor health for a while. In later years he made major contributions to the success of the Radarsat program and had an enviable record as a mentor and inspiration to young space workers <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ottawacitizen/obituary.aspx?n=h-warren&pid=165147830&fhid=6062#fb>

From interior BC I was solicited to provide information on member **Bruce Aikenhead** as follows. "The Science Centre is creating a Virtual Museum Canada exhibition entitled "Bruce Aikenhead, Canadian Space Pioneer". We are very honoured to be putting together this exhibition on Bruce, as not only has he made great contributions to the Canadian aerospace industry, he also designed and was the curator of our Space Galleries here at the Science Centre and served on our Board of Directors. This year, Bruce will celebrate his 90th birthday, and we will be celebrating and capturing his career through the online exhibition, which will open this summer."

As a follow on message to my BC correspondent on the Bruce Aikenhead project I recalled that before coming to RCA, Bruce worked for Gerry Bull, a brilliant and charismatic engineer who conceived the High Altitude Research Program HARP that fired projectiles into the lower regions of space from modified sixteen inch WW2 naval guns. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerald_Bull

I assured my correspondent that Bruce could inform and educate him on this extraordinary gentleman and ill starred project much better than I could.

In the process of a luncheon reminder phone call, George Larder spoke to **Greg Baylis** asking if he was still living in his house on Belmore in NDG. He replied that they will be moving to the Maxwell Residence in Baie d'Urfé on May 3 and so will not be able to make it to the luncheon. He said that he had a lung infection and had lost 20 pounds. He is recuperating and trying to regain weight. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery Greg.

Milt Lillo commented that the mention of Maxwell Residence in Baie d'Urfe rang a bell with him. He did a Google Maps search and found the place. It is in fact along one of his standard walkabout routes to get some much needed exercise and he checked it out. He declared that the residence is a very attractive looking spot, describing itself as a place for "autonomous seniors".

Newsletter Feedback

Thanks so much for the newsletter. I'm sorry to see that a few more members have passed away. I remember **Ruth McWhinnie**, she was a great lady. I'm so glad **Gil Kerr** had a happy ending - thank heavens for portable defibrillators. I love seeing the photos in the Managing - 200 Specialists page. There are several fellows there that I worked for, or with. What great photos!! I found **Dave Whitton's** letter very interesting. I feel we should all be proactive regarding conservation of animals, fauna and natural wonders. The large colour photo that was taken at the recent visit to MDA is a wonderful shot, the facility seems to be very large, and I loved the way you numbered each person, which is very helpful. **Bronwen Williams**

What a sensational newsletter! Louise and I are well. Louise still works (more than full time). She is a VP of Contracts Management at BB&T in Raleigh NC making great use of the experience she gained at RCA. I keep busy with two networking companies – Melaleuca and ASEA. We see Bud and Sophie Tucker frequently. They also live in Raleigh. I'm delighted Alex and Nan Mackenzie joined. We see them about once a year. I had a great conversation with Greg Baylis recently. Our best to all. **Dean and Louise Collis**

PS. Louise is an animal lover – dogs, 4cats, 1 beautiful corn snake (6' long), and 3 aquariums. The cats and dogs are “rescues”. D.

Milt Lillo commented positively on the newsletter format, and from other comments received by George Larder, we will soon be more generous with picture content including helpful captions and identification.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you in response to the Spartans newsletters that you send to my mother, **Ella Hall**. I am her son and take care of her. She enjoys the news, unfortunately not always "good", but informative.

I have two main reasons to write to you. The first is that I have my father's copy of **Roy Machum's** book which I would gladly forward to any of your group members who would so desire it. I was going to send it to you so you could find a recipient at your luncheon, but it is obviously too late. So if you know of someone who would like it please email me and it would be my pleasure to mail it out. I also have a painting of a boat that Roy gave my Dad. I was wondering if any of his family would be interested, not sure whether you or other Spartans would have family contacts. The other reason is rather outdated, so I am not sure whether or not you have had contact with this item.

I live in Glen Robertson ON, which is 30 miles from you and the local newspaper here is the Glengary News from Alexandria. Many years ago an article was written about RCA and the Lenoir office by Margerite Caldbick, who's father (**Ward Caldbick**) was a patent attorney for RCA. It was an entertaining story and I am sorry I've forgotten the context of it. My Dad enjoyed it and had some tales about her Dad. He wrote her a letter and wanted to present this and the article at a luncheon. Unfortunately he was unable to meet her and died before he could relate these stories to your group.

I forwarded her his letter and suggested she contact you and the Spartans as I thought it would be of interest to all. So I have no knowledge whether or not you have had any response. If not, she still writes for the newspaper and you could get the article and I could relate the story (helicopter hanger) in QC.

I also live in St. Donat QC to care for Mom who still lives in the "cottage" that my Dad built on the lake. She will be here to the end! My Dads steamboat is 101 years old and is still steaming, after lots of caulking to the hull and various plumbing needs.

Please feel free to pass this news along and I wish all a good luncheon and will await any response to my offers. All the Best, Don Hall

To which George Larder replied: Thank you for your email, it is always a pleasure to hear from relatives of our past members. It is also interesting to hear that your mother reads our newsletters. Please send me the copy of **Roy Machum's** book. We will have a meeting of the SPARtans executive shortly after the luncheon this Thursday and we will discuss the book and other items you have mentioned in your email. Your dad was known and respected by many of us in our group, including myself.

As part of this continuing exchange George replied;
Hi Don, I received the book by **Roy Machum**, thank you. I will bring it to our meeting with the other directors later this month so we can discuss it and I will hand it over to **Lorne Keyes** who is our unofficial historian. It certainly describes a period of great interest and activity in our days at RCA and Spar. We are interested in any memorabilia especially related to RCA and Spar. I certainly remember

Ward Calbick and we would be very interested in getting a hold of the article. So far we have not heard from his daughter but we will follow it up.

Thank you for providing this information, we will get back to you after our meeting. All the best, **George Larder**

Regrets

Hi Al, Unfortunately, Wolfgang and I will not be able to attend this luncheon. We will be in Montreal Apr. 26th to 29th and therefore can't return the following weekend. It would have been great to see all of you once again.

My health has been great. All follow-up tests have indicated that everything is back to normal, ha, and I am back to my old self. I am very lucky to still be here. Our son Steven is now in high school. He is in the advanced program and doing exceptionally well. Our daughter Jamie is in grade 6 and as is typical for a girl, loves school and is having a great year. Both kids work very hard and we are proud of them. Two of Wendy and Rod's kids are getting married this summer. Wolf's son Christopher and his wife are expecting their first child in August so he will be a Grampa! I'm too young to be married to a Grampa! We are also going to Italy for 10 days in between all of this. We are going to be very busy this summer. Please let everyone know that we will be sorry to miss this. Maybe we can attend the next one.

Janet and Wolfgang Rhode

P.S. Please say hi to "SD" for me. He'll know who he is!

(Al's Note: I took a guess as to who SD was, but I was proved hopelessly wrong.)

Hi Al,

Hope that you & family are well. Just came back from my run from the Y & it was good weather for that kind of activity. Some of our older runners have taken up cycling last year & are now training for a trip to Quebec City to raise funds for cancer research. Long trip don't you think.

I will not be able to attend the upcoming Spring Luncheon as the wife & I will be visiting our grand children in Livingston NJ at this time.

Best regards, **Roger Rak**

Unfortunately the nursing home at which I volunteer is having an event on May 2, and since they don't have many volunteers, I had signed up to help. I hope everyone in SPARTans is fine. I especially think of, Greg Baylis (for whom I worked), and Hazel Osborne (I worked with Ozzie). I hope you are doing well, Al. Finally I think some Spring weather has arrived, we all look forward to the warmth and sun. Best regards, **Bronwen Williams**

Sorry to have been so long in replying to your letter regarding the Spring luncheon. I will not be able to attend and as I know very few of the people who

will attend, I am not forwarding my remittance. I am too old now to go tearing around (though I would like to!) so shall just wish you and all the Spar people a good meeting and luncheon.

Best wishes to you all, **Barbara Walker**.

Thanks for the invite, however, James is not good and I cannot leave him for long. Enjoy yourselves and enjoy the coming summer. **Eila Tallon**

Hallo Al, Thanks for the invite ... but I will not be able to make it this year. I did finally make contact with **Joe Kopal** ... at kojo492004@yahoo.com ... and I forwarded to him your Luncheon invitation. But he may be travelling in the Mediterranean at this point !

Very best wishes **Roland Schwerdtfeger**

Apologies for our absence; we will be in Germany on a River Cruise. Regards to everybody - **John & Jacqueline Burrows**

Hello Al, Once again I have to say that I can't be there for your Spring Luncheon. However, please keep me on your mailing list because I hope to get there some day. I enjoy seeing the photos taken during the meal. I look for my colleagues on the ISIS-2 project at St Henri (1967-71) and on the " CTS " (Communications Technology Satellite) project in Ottawa (1971-76). Enjoy!
Bruce Aikenhead

Joe and Carmen McNally can't make it due to competing medical appointments. He said they hoped to make it to the Xmas luncheon

Hi Al, Every year I ask but every year I fail.....just like life at RCA/SPAR I suppose... If this event could be held ONCE at a later date e.g. Dec 15 or so, I could make it from the far west. I will arrive in Montreal this year on Dec 12, but will miss my friends for the Luncheon.

Sad Regrets, **Keith Ruthman**

Hazel Osborne called to say she won't be coming as she has broken her hip. She is recovering at a Sunshine residence and expects to be back soon at her own retirement residence. (Le Cambridge.)

Lately she prefers the spring luncheons because she is wary of winter conditions and hopes to make the next Spring luncheon. George Larder

Also Sending Regrets

Charles Albright	Gilles Lachapelle	George Pastuszko
John Barkwith	Roger Louie	Corinne Poitras
Bill Corless	Lloyd Martin	George Rout
Joe Delsole	Frank Maxwell	Sim Shek
Marion De Terry	Merle McCubbin	Dave Whitton
Pam Hillier (new member)	Tony Nachou	

Luncheon Follow-up

Nice seeing all those who were able to make it to the luncheon. Another little note: It should be said that most of the original Space Pioneers of RCA vintage have passed on. That is those who worked on the 144 MHz Telemetry transmitter. Only two that I know of, namely John Saunders, who lives out in California, and yours truly. Is there anyone who can remember the various people involved? Including some off the assembly personnel (I believe Frank Hogan was the assembly supervisor).

Alphons G. M. Evers

And from far off Denmark, **Lilly Dyke** writes; Hi Al, I delayed looking at the luncheon pictures until today so I could enjoy them with someone who knew what I was talking about --- and here he is next to me: **Doug and Donna Gilligan** arrived yesterday from Vancouver and we have been talking and talking and talking ever since....

Thank you for sending all these wonderful pictures, and this time I could read the names tags so I knew who we were talking about. Thank you, thank you for all the work in Spartan's interest.

Best regards Lilly

Hi Nicole,

Yes, it was a good luncheon, attendance was a little on the low side and we certainly missed you. **Wanda Daniel** was a great help at registering the guests with me and both she and **Jane Robinson** helped out with the draw for the door prize. The door prize was a \$50.00 lunch voucher for a meal at the restaurant and was won by **Gil Kerr** with a ticket left to him by **Doug Paul** who had to leave early as he is one of the very few who are still active in the workforce! Gil was kind enough to forward the prize to Doug. All the best, George Larder

George Larder one of our most prolific collectors of information reported that he ran into Doug when he stopped by the reception's desk at his residence. He was with his mother, (Mrs. Wilcox who is a resident here). He said he really enjoyed the luncheon and was surprised and delighted to receive the restaurant's \$50.00 meal voucher mailed to him by Gil.

At the luncheon, **Gus and Margaret Gross** enquired about **Keith Howard**, and **Alphons Evers** volunteered to look into the item as he lives near the Howards. He spoke with Joyce Howard, and she said that Keith is alive, but has dementia, and can no longer speak. He resides at Centre d'Hebergement de Lachine and would love to receive visitors. Tel. 514 684-7343.

Some of you may have read of the failure of RADARSAT 1 after an illustrious life far exceeding its design objectives. Canadian Space Agency officials sent the following message to those involved with the program:

Dear RADARSAT family: I wanted to share with you this important and in some sense sad announcement of CSA today that RADARSAT 1 satellite is no longer operational following the anomaly of March 29. The satellite has survived this long and produced excellent results thanks to hard work and dedication of all of you over 17 years. It is sad because many of us had assumed that this will continue forever, but all good things do come to end. It is indeed end of an era, and I would be remiss without acknowledging the important contributions that each of you, and tens, if not hundreds, of others who have made to RADARSAT 1's enduring legacy. Please feel free to share this email with anyone else who you know has worked on RADARSAT 1, I am sending this to all the email addresses that I have. In the near future I hope that we will have an occasion to bring all the RADARSAT 1 family together to celebrate RADARSAT 1's contributions nationally and internationally, and to thank all the pioneers who conceived, developed, built, operated, and used this unique Canadian success. Thank you.

<http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/satellites/radarsat1/default.asp>

Membership

Yes, I will be attending the luncheon on May 2nd. Also, **Alexander Csaki** is thinking of going. I have forwarded this e-mail to him, but for some reason, it will not go through. I will also contact **Gemma McCleod** to see if she would like to attend as she retired last December. Keep up the great work guys. **Joe Delsole**

Good morning Al:

I am not sure if you remember me from my time at Spar since I was on the space side (first for **Ed Sorochnan** and then in Program Management) and if I remember correctly, you worked on the ground equipment. I transferred up to Spar Toronto in 1990 and then left the company in 2000. You may remember my dad Leo who worked in Drafting he is now 95 and living at the Le Felix Residence in Vaudeuil-Dorion. I have seen, but not spoken to, **George Larder** when I have been visiting my parents; or my brother John who also worked in Engineering first in the space side and later in ground equipment; or my ex-wife **Beverley Edwards** who worked for **Doug Jung** and later with the SRMS Engineering team.

Through LinkedIN, I have reconnected with some of my friends from Spar and on my last trip to Montreal to visit my parents I met up with **Doug Paul** and **Peter Oswald** who both told me about the SPARtans. Peter also sent me the membership list and it was great to see so many names that I knew and remember my good times at Spar. Can you please add me to your membership and let me know when your next get together will be so I can try to schedule my visit to Montreal to include joining you for lunch.

I am also in touch with Steve Sorocky and told him about this group and forwarded on the information to him about it. Steve runs the Spar Group on LinkedIN. I look forward to hearing back from you and getting in touch with my friend from Spar. **Peter Landovskis**

(Al's Note: Peter has now joined SPARtans.)

Editors comment: I easily remember all the names and faces mentioned by Peter, including his brother John, and particularly his father Leo who I recall as a gentle and courtly old world gentleman who worked as a draftsman in the **Ray Parker** era.

Honorary Members

Mary Buchanan
Letty Cox
Jean Gondos

Ella Hall
Elsa Hore
Pam Leahy

Hazel Osborne
Pierrette Stewart
Mary Zacharatos

Your Reporter
Lorne Keyes