



Montreal
January, 2006

Spartans Newsletter Winter 2005-2006

Our familiar luncheon venue at the Best Western Dorval Motel was at full capacity on December 1, 2005 for our semi annual rendezvous and usual fine lunch.

Our group of RCA, Spar, and EMS retirees were joined for the first time by **Derek Cox**, **Alphons (Al) Evers**, **Millie MacLeod**, and by **Gil** and **Wilma Branchflower** who traveled from their Maryland home to share reminiscences with old friends and colleagues in Montreal. Since I failed to mention Derek's first time visit during my introduction, I apologize to him and blame some combination of age and alcohol effects. It was a pleasure to welcome the newcomers, and we hope to see them all again.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, rather than change the venue or the format of future luncheons, we will apply a first come first served rule judiciously, to stay within the room capacity, all subject of course to satisfactory negotiations with the restaurant manager.

News Items

1) Obituaries of former colleagues

- Frank Hogan - A message from Michael Hogan, Frank's eldest son, Michael said that Frank had passed away on October 3, 2005

- Val ODonovan (Michael Valentine), C.M. (1936-2005)

Val died quietly at his home in Bermuda on Saturday, February 5, suddenly but peacefully, 16 months after learning he had cancer of his larynx. He was attended by his wife of 44 years, Sheila. In 1963 Val, his pregnant wife and their two infant sons immigrated to Canada. After working in the satellite division at RCA in Montreal Val, joined with two partners who founded Com Dev in 1972.

- John Almond

Died peacefully at home in Ottawa, on Nov 10, 2005 in his seventy-eighth year. John's career as an engineer culminated as Vice President and founding member of Telesat Canada.

- Ron Kelly - I am sure that members of SPARTANS would be interested to learn of the passing of Ron Kelly, a long-time member of the RCA and SPAR marketing department. Ron passed away October 11 in Kitchener at the age of 80. Ron spent 20 years at RCA/SPAR followed by 12 years at Raytheon. From **John Stewart**

2) Sale of the Space and Technology Division of EMS to MDA Space Inc.

Our thanks to Ed Sorochan, who promises to join us, when the planets are in alignment, for details on the transaction and its aftermath. Marc Donato is the new general manager and reports



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to Mag Iskander in MD Robotics in Brampton. From Ste. Anne, Mike Symonds, Roger Louie, Ric Cox, Gareth Lewis, and Phil Queneville were not retained by MDA. This is a reality of organizational realignment rather than a reflection of individual performance. Comdev bought the Space Science group in Ottawa (formerly CAL), and the SARSAT program. The sale of the Satnet group (formerly the communications group and last vestige of the RCA microwave relay group), may have some impact on the present staff. The purchaser is Advantech AMT, a privately held company headquartered in Dorval.

We will continue to welcome retirees and friends from the prior organizations in our umbrella group.

- 3) We were pleased to see regular attendees **Bob Cox** and **Henry Hore** enjoying the luncheon, both successfully recovering from significant medical problems. Henry was recovering from an automobile accident injury attributed to the unexpected attack of a stray cat that he was returning to the Cornwall SPCA. This cat was apparently so upset at losing the comfortable home that Henry and Elsa had been providing, that he escaped his cage and sank his fangs into Henry's arm causing him to lose control of the vehicle. Take that Henry! It was only incidental to the treatment of his injuries that doctors discovered a heart problem. Nature works in mysterious ways. (The air bag in his 12 year old vehicle undoubtedly saved his life)
- 4) Special recognition to **Curtis Ingerville** for providing an excellent hand crafted mantle clock as a raffle prize. For those who may not know Curt well, he is a long time artisan in both wood and metal, and not being satisfied with mere cabinetry, has made musical instruments including a classical guitar. Our thanks to willing volunteers **Nicole Bourdeau** and **Jane Robinson** for prompt and efficient ticket sales. The first draw strangely did not produce a winner. The second draw was won by **Cécile Pagé**, who coincidentally once worked as Curt's secretary. The mystery of why the first draw did not produce a winner was quickly solved by detective **George Larder**. After confirming that early escaper **Peter Garland** had left his ticket with **Bill Corless**, and that it was not a winner, George recalled that just before the draw, **Wilma Branchflower** showed him a strip of three identically numbered tickets. This error was quickly corrected and the draw proceeded properly.

5) Correspondence

You may recall that in trying to put a lighter touch on the passing of our colleague John Almond, and with some artistic license, I gave an account of an episode in his career at RCA, referred to as the "Yellow Mustang" affair. A tug at my sleeve at the time, and a follow-up letter from **Dr. Freleigh Osborne "Ozzie"**, gave a complete first hand account of the events surrounding this incident. It appears that the rental car in question, was a promotional special and



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not significantly more expensive than a regular sedan. The rental of a sporty "Red Mustang" was however challenged by his boss (Jack Sutherland) as not being an appropriate expense item. John's defense of the expense claim concluded with his oft quoted reply, "besides, it was a yellow Mustang", a more accurate and interesting punch line than my second hand account.

Jack Sutherland - "I received the info on your organization and the upcoming dinner. I replied to the former but as usual will not make the planned dinner. Hope you have a great turnout. Say hello to the many friends and acquaintances I still have from the 27 years I spent at RCA. Warm regards": Jack Sutherland.

Joe & Carmen McNally - "Thanks for giving me a call the other day. We won't be able to make lunch tomorrow. Please convey Carmen and my best wishes of the season to everyone and we definitely plan on being there next Spring. Cheers Joe and Carmen".

6) Attendance

Al Lawson	Alan Powell	Alphons Evers
Andy & Susan Sztyk	Antoine Nachau	Barbara Walker
Bill Corless	Bob & Letty Cox	Cécile Pagé
Charles Albright	Claire McCole	Claude Richard
Curtis Ingerville	Daisy Scammell	Dave & Violet Ahmed
Derek Cox	Doug Gilligan	Doug Jung
Freleigh & Hazel Osborne	George & Dorothy Larder	George Symeonides
Georges Vaillancourt	Gil & Wilma Branchflower	Gil Kerr
	Gilles Lachapelle	Grace Fletcher (No Show)
Greg & Peggy Baylis	Henri Claireaux	Henri Raymond (No show)
Henry & Elsa Hore	Ilse Smejkal	Irma Carson
James Sisley	Jane Robinson	Joe & Mary Soul
John Zacharatos	Lionel & Jacqueline Giasson	Lorne & Riggie Keyes
Louis Laroche	Marion de Terry	Marion MacCallum
Mary Buchanan	Millie MacLeod	Milt Lillo
Mohamed Abdelhadi	Nicole Bourdeau	Paul & Hanne Weijers
Paul Loiselle	Peter Garland	Raymond Gosselin
Rea Hall	Roger Rak	Roland Niklaus
Stefan Zadrozny	Stuart Dunphy	Svend Berg
Ted Phillips	Wal Duk	

Cocktails



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Doug Paul	Gilberte Gauthier
Shyam Gupta	

7) Regrets

<u>Adam Mercik</u> - sore back	Barbara Stimpson
Bronwen Williams	<u>Bruce Berridge</u> - schedule conflict
Diane Bentley	<u>Eila Tallon</u> - eye problem, regards to all
Elsie Langdon	<u>Evelyn Feehan</u> - Back in the Spring
Frank Papworth	Heather Tanguay
<u>Hillar Kurlents</u> - Off to Florida	<u>John Burrows</u> - Florida suspect
John Pauch	<u>John Stewart</u> - Escaped to Florida
<u>Leo Arsenault</u> - Out of town on family obligations	Lloyd & Betty Martin - Next luncheon
Lloyd Slaven	Mathilde Grosswindhager
Michael Gondos	Mike Boysen
Richard Allen - Still working	Richard Baylis
Robin Shepherdson	Sim Shek

In summary

The interesting news received from Henry (Elsa), and Ozzie are a good reminder that we should all try to write down some of our recollections both recent and long past, to share with friends and family. These accounts may contain valuable knowledge, for none of us are too old to benefit from the experience of others, but pure entertainment is good too.

Curt's donation of the clock for the raffle is an encouragement to other members to share their hobbies and interests with us at future luncheons. They can be suitable for a raffle or for a show and tell. We will be inviting our members to submit their hobbies and interests to us when we send out the notices for the next luncheon.

That's it for now. Keep the news coming and spread the word, which is our best way of maintaining numbers and enjoying our shared experience.

Your reporter

Lorne Keyes