



Young lady talking to Santa at the annual "Talk to Santa" event at the Canadian Science and Technology Museum.

*Photo: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH*

## TALK TO SANTA REPORT

We had a total of 135 very happy and sometimes, quite nervous and timid children who spoke with Santa Claus at the North Pole on Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17, 2006. It was like magic, just plain magic, watching these children's eyes light up with a huge smile as they talked on the radio to Santa Claus! This annual 'Talk to Santa' event was held at the Canada Museum of Science and Technology from 1.00 - 4.00 p.m. for two days with the wonderful assistance from Santa, Don Raymond VE3DRO, and many of his elves wearing their own Christmas red with Santa's red hat. These helpful and very courteous elves included; Jose Campione VA3PCJ, Doug

Lackey VE3DLJ, Steve Cochran VE3SBC, Robert Plante VA3SHO, Graham Bennett VE3GBD and yours truly. Santa's elves walked throughout the museum looking for children and offered them the chance to 'Talk to Santa,' in either of our official languages. Santa took some much needed time out from his busy schedule at the North Pole to talk to the children on his special 'Santa Claus' frequency. He conducted a simplex net with help from all of his enthusiastic Amateur Radio 'Elves' using their handie talkies.

Children, as young as a year and a half, were very impressed to hear Santa's loud and happy 'Ho Ho Ho' as it echoed through the Museum from the radios of his elves. Every time Rudolph the Red nose reindeer's name was mentioned, he would become

very excited and we could hear the sound of Santa's reindeer bells while Santa was telling him to calm down, and get away from the radio. We heard Santa's exclamation 'Well bless my buttons' as the children told Santa what gifts they wanted for Christmas. Many of the children wished him a Merry Christmas and one child even asked Santa where he was and his age. Santa said he was at the North Pole and he was so old and had so many birthdays that he had lost track so he didn't know his age. Santa was kept busy writing a long list of the gifts wanted by the children and he always said, 'I can't promise you I can get everything you ask for but I will try my best!', and he always wished all of them and their families a Very Merry Christmas!

Thanks to the Museum staff for helping organize this event, especially, Arianne Richeson, Suzanne Beaulne, and Marc Trudel for all their work, help and interest.

Thanks also to Jenna, a volunteer at the Museum, who typed up the certificates for the children. Thanks to Jose who also helped type some of the certificates. They both handed out certificates along with a candy cane for each child, compliments of the Museum. Another big 'Thank You Santa' and to all of your elves that made this such a successful event! I enjoyed working with all of you and you certainly deserve the credit for making this 'Talk to Santa' event one of the best over the years. The Museum appreciates your help and I'm sure, they are very pleased with the turnout. I hope I have inspired some of our members to volunteer next year as Elves for this very worthy and very satisfying event.

73  
Larry VE3WEH,  
Talk to Santa Coordinator

**Ken Barry, VE3KJB (SK)**  
4 Jan 2007

Ken was a long time member of our club and looked after our Flea Market and Christmas Variety Show for many years.



## OVMRC Executive 2006-2007

President	VACANT
Vice-President	<a href="#">Jean Crepeau</a> VA3JCN 613-
Treasurer	<a href="#">Robert Plante</a> VA3SHO 613-
Secretary	<a href="#">Jacques Choquette</a> VE3TSC

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VE3VIG, 613-749-9010

Amateur Radio Training  
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VE3EJJ, 613-728-3666

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Historical  
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## OVMRC Life Members

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

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Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

Ed Morgan, VE3GX

Bill Wilson, VE3NR

## OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 MHz(+)

444.200 MHz(+)

## Amateur Radio Exhibit

### VE3JW

Web site:

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada Science & Technology  
Museum

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## General Meeting Minutes December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### Jacques, VE3TSC Secretary

Meeting was opened at 1940 by Matthew VA3MHB with a total of 21 people present and one visitor Don VE3JFD. The process then continued with reports from the Executive Chairs, if any, to be presented.

VE3JW - It possible that at the end of Jan 07, the Museum station will be authorized for a contact with the Shuttle and the Space Station. For Santa Claus Day (Dec 16-17), enough volunteers did come forward to supply a Santa and 4 elves for contact with the children who will be visiting the Museum.

Historical - mention was made of the hope that all who received the Rambler did notice that due to the holiday schedule that the General meeting was on Dec 14 and not the 21st.

Treasurer - gave an update of the club account and so far all is good.

Membership - so far no further news has come forth on the city antenna bylaw. Two people, Brian VE3UU and Brian VE3IX, became new members this evening.

VHF net - Dec 29 Wise Owl net is hereby cancelled if no volunteers come forward. Larry VE3WEH did mention he was willing to do it that day.

HF net - The number of participants is still being track of for the Pot Hole net. The average number is 11 with an increase of 3-4 from last year.

Publicity & Programs - Steve announced that on Jan 18/07 between 1900-2000 will be the 2nd Mini Flea Market. Members were reminded that to get tables they should come early and that they are limited to 2 boxes of gear per seller. Also that evening course graduates will be introduced.

Bob VA3QB mentioned that for the RAC Winter Contest he a couple of friends will be in a tent on Bate Island on the Ottawa River. An offer was made that if they wish, others could attend there with them. Bob will be on VHF, UHF and HF as VE3RCS between the hours of 2000 Dec 29 to 2000 Dec 30.

Mention was made that on Dec 24/06 will be the 100 years of a first 2 way radio contact in 1906 by Fessenden from Brant Park, Mass. to Scotland. "On Christmas Eve, 1906, from a transmitting station in Brant Rock, Massachusetts, he sent a short program which included the song O Holy Night played on

the violin and a reading from the Bible. A second short program was broadcast on December 31, 1906." In memory of this Industry Canada has authorized a special call sign for Dec and Jan. An example is VE3 prefix holders can now use CG3. For more info on this, see the RAC web site.

Maurice-Andre VE3VIG gave the first presentation by highlighting the contents of the satellite course he is presently giving at the Museum. "Space is amateur radio's future". He lightly covered along with pictures on the big screen the history, satellites used and several other technical aspects (radio, frequency, mode, etc.). Also shown were the various antennas one can use for these operations. Especially interesting were the home made ones built for satellite use. This course is open to any amateur radio operator at the tie and pace of their choosing with so far, no cost to those interested.

Ken VA3SRS gave the second presentation on the CASARA North Bay National Search & Rescue exercise held on Sept 29-30/06. CASARA is the Civil Air Search And Rescue Association. Lots of amateur and air frequencies with a variety of gear was used. Across Canada, 750 people and 2500 volunteers are involved in Search and Rescue.

Participants for this exercise were CASARA, various Search & Rescue military squadrons from across the country, some combat support and the OPP. Some aircraft used were the CASARA Cessna 172's, Hercules transport, and the Buffalo and Griffin helicopters. Also to be used at that time but prohibited for safety reasons was the Cormorant helicopter.

The exercise itself involved various events such as parachute, medical, search and rescue, maintenance and helicopter and ground searches. All of this was excellently shown along with verbal info on the big screen from a computer slide show of personnel, locations, equipment and aircraft used for this event. The military were quite impressed with APRS as they themselves don't have such a locating system. Most is done by voice only to HQ for location marking on maps.

A vote taken for giving the Jerry Wells Award to the nomination of Bob VA3QV was accepted by the majority.

Door prizes were won by VA3SHO (surprise gift), Joe Howard (vise grips), VE2AGG (Museum family pass), VE3SRS (nail holder hammering aid), VA3SIE (Museum family pass) and VE3TSC (cellphone antenna). The 50/50 draw was a sum of \$26 to VA3MHB.

Meeting was closed at 2150. Afterward a Holiday get together was held outside with a Xmas cake and refreshments. The cake was

from VA3JCN and the Steve VE3SBC was responsible for getting the whole material together onto the tables.

## Minutes General Meeting November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006

The meeting opened at 7:35 p.m. and Vice-President Jean Crepeau VA3JCN presided.

Technical Assistance was requested by Larry Deutsch W2IG, who has been trying unsuccessfully to set up an antenna for his ICOM718 in his condominium. He would like to know if any members would like to help him set up his unit for remote operation? He would need help to set it up. It was suggested that there is software available on the Internet to help set up a remote operation and José VA3PCJ suggested a site called 'run remotely'. Dr. Larry Deutschland asked to be contacted if there was anyone interested in working with him on this project.

Maurice-André VE3VIG, announced that, unfortunately, CHU is shutting down their transmitter on 7.335 kHz on April 1, 2007. He invited members to read the information on the NRC web site and encouraged them to provide comments.

Mathew VA3MHB wants to borrow a GPS to beacon his way home and so is asking if any member has a spare GPS available to lend him?

After this section of the meeting concluded, Jean introduced Ernie Brown VA3OEB who spoke to the club about his experiences as a member of the Merchant Marine during World War II.

Ernie told us that radio operators in those days were nicknamed 'sparks' and that he took his initial training in Toronto in 1940. The navy was looking for people who would go to sea and he volunteered. The war was forcing the development of convoys to protect merchant shipping and they also needed to have twenty-four hour coverage of the air waves. As a result many more operators were required to make sure there were enough people available.

After completing his training at the Canadian Electronics Institute in Toronto he was assigned to the Dutch ship, the Maasdam, sailing out of New Jersey. Upon seeing the cargo, including stowed aircraft, Ernie knew that the mission of the Merchant Marine was very important. When he was on the ship, he used a TRF radio with regeneration and his emergency receiver was a crystal radio set. He recalled that the key was big and heavy.

It took 16 days for the slow-moving convoy to sail across the Atlantic. When they docked in Liverpool, he experienced fear first hand as the air raids dropped their incendiary bombs destined to burn many ships. He said he had never seen such destruction. Setting sail for the return voyage, he could hear radio reports from sinking ships. He remembers eight SOS radio reports on that voyage and knows that at one point, his ship was but 200 kilometers from the Bismarck. He felt very lucky that his convoy was not spotted.

His next trip out of New Jersey on the HXX133 was less fortunate. The convoys were under constant attack and his ship was hit on June 26. As a junior operator, his task was to get rid of the code books by putting them in a sack with a heavy weight and throwing them overboard. Then he was to get the emergency radio ready for the life boat. In their case, the life boat they were using was damaged and filled with water. Fortunately, they were rescued by a Norwegian oil tanker and taken to Liverpool.

After leave in Britain, he was assigned to the MV TUBA sailing for Iceland. When the stop over in Iceland was finished, the ship set out again but was hit by a torpedo. He prepared to abandon ship again but was rescued by the HMCS St. Croix and taken to Halifax where he was allowed to return home.

Ernie noted that radio operators served in all branches of the Armed Forces, Ferry Command and the Merchant Navy.

In the question and answer period, he was asked what was his role while on board ship. Ernie responded by saying that the operators did not transmit rather they listened and copied the transmissions from London. They did not decode the messages but brought the copy to the deck for decoding. Morse code requirements were twenty words per minute, and he was not known as a Marconi man! When he returned to Canada, he worked as a radio operator in Ottawa listening to German transmissions and copying their code for the admiralty.

Ernie's presentation ended at 8:40 p.m. Steve VE3SBC presented Ernie with a mug in appreciation of his talk to the club.

Jean presided over the business portion of the meeting.

Ken Halcrow was not present to speak about the CASARA trip.

Patrick VA3CMD was not present to speak on HF radio operations but Larry VE3WEH spoke on his behalf to say that the Pot Hole Net needs volunteers to be net controllers. Please contact Patrick at [VA3CMD@rac.ca](mailto:VA3CMD@rac.ca)

Vice-President Jean then described the options available for club leadership given that there is no President at this time:

1. Use volunteer presenters on a monthly basis;
2. Reduce the number of meetings, or;
3. Merge with another club.

Larry VE3WEH moved that we adopt option number 1. Robert Cherry VE2AGE, Seconded the motion and the motion was carried by vote of the General Membership.

On the question of a merger, it was decided that this option needed to be explored since membership was shrinking. With this discussion, it was felt that more work should be done to investigate why members are leaving. Approach people who use the repeater or nets but do not become members. Develop more interesting meetings.

Treasurer Robert plant VA3SHO reported that he and past treasurer Ken had met and the bank account now has the appropriate signatories. He also has access to the PO box and is collecting mail!

Ernie Jury VE3EJJ reported that three members of the class have already passed their CW requirements.

Field Day Chair George was not present to make a report.

Larry Wilcox VE3WEH reported that he received a request from Webmaster Elias VE3EKZ that a request had come in to find out if there were any astronomy nets? If anyone is aware of local astronomy nets, contact Larry.

Larry went on to speak about the Jerry Wells Award. This year's nominee is Past President Bob Sharp for his tireless and indefatigable work last year.

Membership: Thirty-two members present at the meeting.

Steve VE3SBC reported on programs. He noted that the tower for sale would soon be going on the open market, since there was no member desiring the equipment. He asked whether or not the club wanted a social meeting for December but there was not much enthusiasm expressed.

There was no report from radio operations but there were several technical matters. Vice-President Jean indicated that the UHF repeater was still not available. He also asked the club to reconsider the auto patch since there was an option to change carriers and use either Rogers or Primus at a much lower monthly fee. Matthew VA3MHB moved that the club accept this option. Treasurer Robert VA3SHO seconded and the motion was carried, 14 votes to one.

Ernie Jury made one further announcement that those interested might read the November issue of Nuts and Bolts Magazine which has done a series of articles to cover the one hundredth anniversary of the vacuum tube.

There were four door prize winners and past treasurer Ken donated his fifty-fifty winnings of \$26.50 to the club.

The Executive meets November 23, 2006. The next club meeting is December 21, 2006.

Signed  
Kester Trim VE3CEN  
Acting Secretary

## JANUARY MEETING PROGRAMME

1. Mini amateur radio flea market.

**WHO;** You - Current and future Amateur Radio operators

**WHAT;** Buy or sell amateur radio equipment and accessories you have or need

**WHEN:** 7.00 PM to 8.00 PM Jan 18 2007 before the regular OVMRC Meeting

**WHERE;** Canadian Museum of Science and Technology

**HOW;** By being there early to take advantage of all the bargains

### RULES:

1. Members only selling
2. Stock limited to two boxes
3. No reserve table space - share tables
4. Time 7-8 PM
5. Charge - 20% of gross sales payable to club
6. Take-down after meeting, take everything not sold with you

**CONTACT:** Steve VE3SBC  
613-248-0323

2. Presentation of the Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year award for 2006.
3. Introduction of the amateur radio course graduates for the 2006 training course.
4. An audio visual presentation by Bob, VA3QV on the RAC Winter Contest and Island Activation on Bate Island on Dec 29/30 2006 by members of the club.

## [RAC-Bulletin] 06-018E Operation by "Basic Plus" Amateurs in the USA

Since Industry Canada removed the mandatory requirement for the Morse Qualification for access to the HF bands below 30 MHz on July 22, 2005, there has been confusion as to whether amateurs with a "Basic Plus" qualification (without Morse Code) are permitted to use the HF bands in other countries.

A spokesperson for the FCC's Amateur Division has clarified the situation regarding the Reciprocal Operating Agreement between Canada and the United States:

- A Canadian Basic Plus licensed operator located within the US, US- controlled territories or US territorial waters has the same HF privileges as in Canada, insofar as those privileges do not exceed those granted to US Extra Class amateurs.

A Canadian licensed operator operating within the US or US waters must comply with US regulations for the Amateur Radio Service. Their operating privileges can be no more than those of a US Extra Class Amateur. This means that Canadian amateurs in the US cannot, for example, use SSB below 7150 KHz on the 40 meter band, as they are able to do in Canada or in international waters.

Industry Canada has confirmed that this statement is consistent with IC's understanding of the reciprocal operating treaty between Canada and the US.

The situation in other countries varies from country to country. Many countries have still retained the Morse requirement for HF, and some countries continue to require a Morse qualification for HF operation by amateurs visiting from other countries. Basic Plus operators planning to visit countries other than the US and wishing to operate on HF while traveling should contact the regulatory authorities in those countries before leaving Canada.

## National Research Council's Time Service Station CHU in for changes

### NOTICE:

"On April 1, 2007, CHU needs to stop operating, change frequencies, or relicence. Contact [radio\\_chu@nrc.gc.ca](mailto:radio_chu@nrc.gc.ca) or mail CHU Canada K1A 0R6,"

This outreach is to collect information from users of CHU to help shape recommendations concerning what should be done concerning changes to CHU that will have to be in place by April 2007.

In April 2007 the licence on 7.335 MHz will have to be modified to reflect changes on the status of the band allocation by the International Telecommunications Union. This frequency has been changed from "fixed service" to "broadcast". (The ITU decision does not affect the frequencies 3.33 MHz and 14.67 MHz.) Some alternatives are:

1. Re-licencing just might be possible, calling the 7.335 MHz a "broadcast".
2. It is also possible to stop using that frequency (the most useful of the three we use). Stopping one signal is the easiest solution but could create problems for some clients who are counting on this particular signal.
3. Change the frequency from 7.335 MHz to a nearby fixed-service frequency. It would need some investment from our part in new hardware and in manpower. It could also create problems for clients, and likely not all radios will be able to tune to the new frequency.
4. Closure of the entire CHU operation, as discussed below.

To be seriously considered, any of the above alternatives will need to have a zero-based budgeting justification prepared, comparing it against the least expensive alternative of closing CHU entirely. CHU is entering a phase where major investment in new transmitters will be required if it is to be kept operating. In the absence of input from the CHU user community, concerning the importance of CHU's contribution in the modern world, this last option is an inescapable recommendation.

The CHU code is also used as a radio clock, which can be used as a reference clock for an NTP time server. Software drivers have been written that can obtain the date and time from the code and that tune a digitally tuned radio to one of our 3 frequencies, to get the best signal. Users of this service gen-

## [RAC-Bulletin] 06-017E Special Prefixes Authorized

At the request of Radio Amateurs of Canada, Industry Canada has authorized all Canadian radio amateurs to use special event prefixes for the months of December 2006 and January 2007, to mark the 100th anniversary of the first AM voice broadcast by Reginald Fessenden on December 24, 1906.

Reginald Fessenden, who was born in East Bolton, Quebec, on October 6, 1866, and lived until July 22, 1932, was the holder of more than 500 patents on a wide variety of subjects, and the inventor of radio as we know it today. He is particularly known for: the first voice transmission by radio in 1900, the first transatlantic two-way radio communications in January 1906, and the first radio broadcasts of entertainment and music in December 1906.

On Christmas Eve, 1906, from a transmitting station in Brant Rock, Massachusetts, he sent a short program which included the song O Holy Night played on the violin and a reading from the Bible. A second short program was broadcast on December 31, 1906.

Canadian radio amateurs are authorized to use the following special event prefixes during the period 1 December 2006 to 31 January 2007 inclusive:

- CF for VA stations
- CG for VE stations
- CH for VO stations
- CI0 for VY0 stations
- CI1 for VY1 stations
- CI2 for VY2 stations.

erally don't listen to the audio broadcast. So we cannot gauge the usage by sending this announcement.

**Please, if you know of anyone using CHU but not aware of the possible changes to its frequency usage, let them know and ask them to contact us about any essential uses. Also if you have an important use for CHU signals, please tell us how you use our signals.**

**We are quite prepared to keep CHU in operation, and we will try and make the best case possible to present to all decision makers.**



Santa's Elves.

Photos by: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH



Santa himself, Don Raymond, VE3DRO.



Santa's assistant Jenna