

# The Communicator

## Newsletter Volume X, Edition I Spring 2010

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*OCAMS in 1974*

### *Editors Thoughts* *By David Smith*

Yes, this edition is a little late (not the way to begin the 10<sup>th</sup> year of production) and I can't blame this on having to shovel snow every day. In fact, this is the year we take delight in the knowledge that Washington D.C. has had more snow than Ottawa. Isn't Ottawa supposed to be the snowiest capital on earth – perhaps Al Gore and David Suzuki and their Global Warming are right after all --- but I doubt it!

Tax time is upon us and John Roy recently steered me to a new tax program. Over the years I had become familiar with using Quick Tax but other products including a new “Studio Tax” program warranted a second look especially as it is a free program. Unlike past years when we had little choice but to purchase a program that the CRA would accept for Netfile, there are now a number of authorised programs. Here is a list from their webpage: <http://www.netfile.gc.ca/sftwr-eng.html> and below is a “snippet” from that page. By clicking on each program, you are taken to the home page of the developers which lists the programs features and if it is free or not. John advises that anyone who gets a T4-RCA slip should be aware these monies are not eligible for income-splitting. (Not everyone will receive this T4 slip).

This newsletter contains an article on our 50 year contribution to DFAIT – thanks to Kurt Jensen who took the time to write it and have it published as the feature article in PAFSO's “Bout de Papier”. <http://www.pafso.com/magazine.cfm> It is being reprinted here with the kind permission of Debra Hulley(PAFSO) and Kurt Jensen. Happy reading.

#### **Certified Software for the 2010 NETFILE Program (2009 tax return)**

##### **Windows:**

[eTaxCanada](#), [FutureTax](#), [GenuTax](#), [H & R Block](#), [myTaxExpress](#), [QuickTax](#), [StudioTax](#), [TaxFreeway](#), [Taxnic](#), [TaxTron](#), [UDoTaxes](#), [UFile](#)

##### **Web applications:** (for Windows and Macintosh)

[AceTax Online](#), [EachTax.com](#), [eTaxCanada Online](#), [H & R Block At Home™ Online Tax](#), [iFileTaxOnline.ca](#), [QuickTax](#), [Tax Chopper \(formerly CuteTax Online\)](#), [Taxnic.ca](#), [UFile.ca](#), [WebTax4U.ca](#)

##### **Macintosh:**

[TaxFreeway](#), [TaxTron](#)

View the software developers' Web site to see if you qualify for their **free offerings**.

[How to find your ".tax" file](#)

## *How I married a paper doll*

*By Buck Arbuckle*

Happy, content, busy and well entertained are we at Stillwater Creek Retirement Home on Robertson Road in Bells Corners, Ottawa. Activities such as discussion groups, games, trips, barbeques, excursions, theatre and picnics keep the guests very busy.

Married couples were recently singled out for a special celebration where Norma and I were the principals in a mock wedding. The reverend Ken Cowan officiated. As we lined up to voice our vows, Norma told me to remove my hat as this was, after all, her wedding. I did and Ken offered to mind it. He put it where I could keep an eye on it, on his own head.

In the main, the service proceeded routinely until Norma was asked to love and honour me until I was called to that great retirement home in the sky. I insisted that she also promise to obey me and an argument ensued with the vicar which he won. Norma didn't have to obey me. Come time for the ring I produced a four inch diameter ring which proved unsuitable for a finger so I slipped it onto Norma's wrist. Soon the ceremony concluded and I got my hat back. But the celebration didn't end with the ceremony. Wine and refreshments supplied by the home were served in copious quantities for some considerable time following the nuptials which, though pleasant, seriously delayed our anticipated honeymoon.

Now a word about Norma's dress. It was made entirely of paper, on site, just before the wedding. It was indeed a masterpiece and drew attention and compliments from several Canadian publications in which it appeared. We thought you also might enjoy our wedding picture.

The day after the ceremony I realized that, as the groom, I had overlooked recompense for the padre so I composed a thank you note and enclosed 20 cents in Canadian Tire money for his time and trouble. He seemed pleased.

Such is life in Stillwater Creek Retirement Home. We should have moved here sooner.



\* \* \*

*A Hospital Visit*  
*By Buck Arbuckle*

Ken Wardroper had just graduated from two postings as ambassador abroad and was hopefully laying the ground work for a third posting when and if a suitable opening became available. In the meantime he was appointed as Director General over several administrative divisions including Telecommunications. He was a straight-laced gentleman who dressed well though conservatively. He was proud of his language writing skills. Among others, he projected these attributes to demonstrate that he was eminently suitable for another ambassadorial assignment and he was ready to go. Thus the scene is set for the following.

It was a weekend in late November when Ken Wardroper decided to string some Christmas lights around his home. Equipped with lots of suitable clips for hanging the lights from his eavestroughing, he climbed the ladder and was making admirable progress when he slipped. His fall injured both legs so that an ambulance was necessary to deposit him in the hospital. Medical staff indicated it would take two weeks to repair the damage.

As loyal members of a caring staff, Gordon Happy and I proposed to visit him. We found him in a sparsely furnished private room. There was a bed, occupied by the patient, two uncomfortable chairs and a very small bedside table. This little table was scarcely big enough to hold his razor and the two bottles of pills. We exchanged pleasantries with Ken, discussed the weather and he seemed genuinely pleased to see us. We reassured him that his departmental empire was functioning very well without his guidance, a fact designed to ease any foreboding concerns he may have regarding his absence. After about half an hour we decided to leave but not before presenting him with a couple of little gifts. First we gave him a 40 oz bottle of rye which was, of course, too big to hide in his bedside table. It had to sit on top with his pills. Then we presented him with the PlayBoy Annual, a magazine liberally sprinkled with fold-outs of colour photos of nudes of the female persuasion. By a strange coincidence it was also too big to be accommodated in his little bedside table. It had to rest on top of it with the booze and the pills in plain view of anyone entering the room. We could imagine him being caught sneaking a peek at some of these nudes.

After the presentation, we withdrew and left him to muster all his language skills to explain to doctors, nurses, friends and family what he was doing, first of all, with such articles and secondly, why he thought he needed them in the hospital. I can only assume he was successful with his explanations because when he returned to the office some weeks later he did greet me with a broad smile. That was the only indication he gave that he accepted our thoughtful gifts in the spirit of good will in which they were offered.

\* \* \*

## *Another Hospital Visit*

And it came to pass that one of our friends, a regional security officer from the Departmental Security and Intelligence Division, was admitted to hospital and again it seemed appropriate that we should visit him. After all, this was as much a personal thing as a matter of waving the flag. My wife and I had been friends of the patient's family for some years and we decided to visit him with a little gift.

I explained to my wife what we should do and she agreed to help. Together we went to the super market and bought a nice potted mum. Then on to the drug store for some condoms. We were standing in front of the large display rack discussing the pros and cons of every make and model, oblivious to the gathering crowd of people behind us. Apparently they became fascinated that people would go as a couple and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various condoms before agreeing on a joint selection. Finally we picked a dozen multi-coloured types as the most suitable.

Returning home we clipped all the lovely yellow flowers of the beautiful mum, leaving only the stems and leaves. Then, very carefully, we affixed the coloured condoms to the stems the flowers had just vacated. After surrounding our creation with gift wrapping paper we proceeded to the hospital.

Our inmate was, of course, very pleased to see us. We removed the protective wrapper from our artistic work and placed the plant where the patient could enjoy its full beauty. He seemed at a loss, unable to recognize it for what it was. I explained that it was very rare indeed and that we hoped he would fully appreciate receiving a rubber plant in full bloom. It is my understanding that most of the hospital staff found reason to visit our friend to view the gift, even to the point where he complained he couldn't get any rest.

Word of such incidents travelled fast through the department and, as an afterthought, was probably a contributing factor why the Telecommunications Division, a service organization, was held in such high regard throughout the department.

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## *The mail bag* *By David Smith*

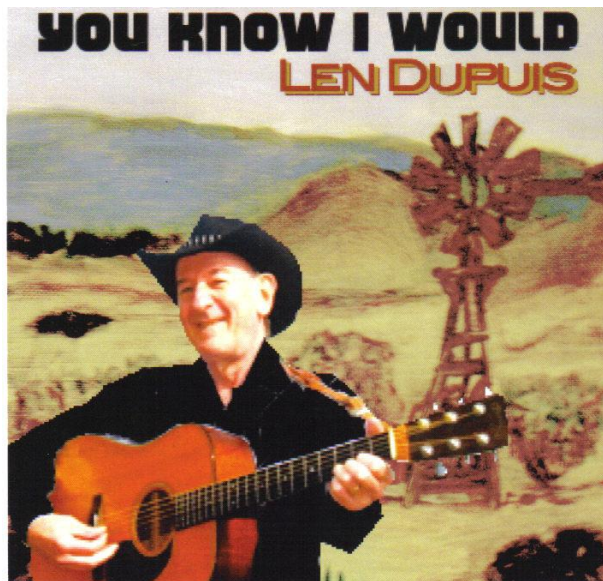
### *Our very own Music Man – Len Dupuis*

Len has produced another hit CD "You know I would" and this one is dedicated to another former friend and colleague Roger Bergeron, who taught Len to play guitar (see cover below). I especially enjoyed the song: "She loves me when she's sober" as I recall having a girlfriend who was exactly the opposite!! View Len on YouTube here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGdWIH2BNP0> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGoqiIcmG7A>

A new song featured on YouTube (June 2009) is called "Money for the bills". Daughter Jeannette is in front with Len and son David just behind him. The Drummer is Jeannette's husband. Len Dupuis: Our own Johnny Cash and truly a Silver Tongued Devil! Len rides in the cab of my Silverado during road trips. No more book cypher messages for him!



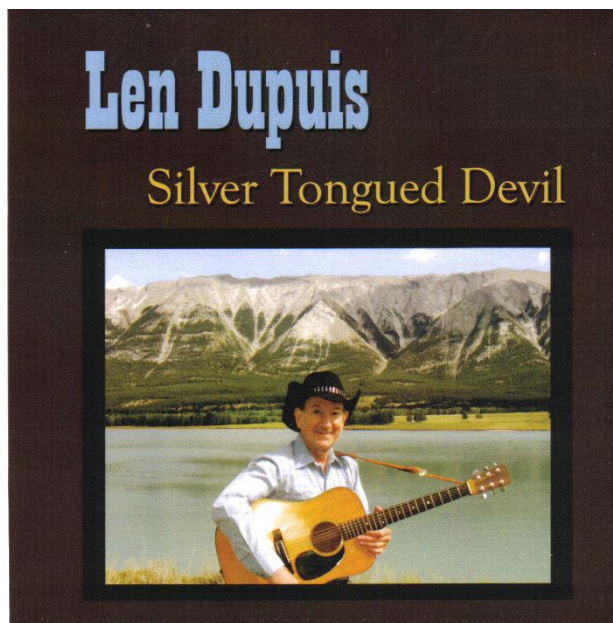


All songs written by Jeannette Dupuis in collaboration with Len Dupuis, except for Feels Good and French Song. The father-daughter team set out to write and record some old style country songs. Len recorded the lead vocals and rhythm guitar in his home studio in Alberta and then Jeannette added the other instrumentation in Toronto. Thank you to Jody Brumell, Andy Delph, Dave Dupuis and Crawford Teasdale for their musical contributions. A special thank you to Nancy Dupuis for her production consultations.

The characters in these songs are fictional. Any similarities between them and real individuals are purely coincidental. That includes the character 'Ruby' in 'She Loves Me When She's Sober'.

Feels Good was written by Lloyd MacHardy, a singer-songwriter based out of Merigomish, Nova Scotia. French Song was written by Lucille Starr of Port Coquitlam, B.C.

In memory of Roger Bergeron who taught Len Dupuis how to play guitar giving the Dupuis family the precious gift of music.



Blue Moon of Kentucky / Jambalaya / Swing Low  
I'll Be Somewhere Listening / Good Hearted Woman  
Rollin' in My Sweet Baby's Arms  
Bass - Andy Delph   Drums - Jody Brumell   Lead Guitar - David Dupuis

**All Songs**  
Lead Vocals and Rhythm Guitar - Len Dupuis  
Banjo and Ukele - David Dupuis  
Backing Vocals - David Dupuis and Jeannette Dupuis Brumell  
Produced, Engineered & Mixed by Jeannette Dupuis Brumell

**DeeDee Nolen – friend of the Couriers**  
**By Ken McNames (Email received October 31, 2009)**

Hi David, I was at a party tonight and found out that Dee Dee Nolen passed away last month from cancer. She looked after the Diplomatic Couriers up until the early 90's. Many of the couriers will remember her and I thought you might be able to pass on this sad info.

DeeDee Nolen was the "go to girl at Air Canada for courier reservations" and her boss was Andy Lauzon, (sp) the area sales rep. I only know she died of cancer a month ago and assume it was in Ottawa. I heard that in about 1995 she transferred to being an air hostess. She had a terrific sense of humour in dealing with Canadian Diplomatic Couriers.

\* \* \*

*Where are they now? - An update to the 2007 list of former CM's (with thanks to Shirley Gillette)  
As of February 2010  
By David Smith*

**In the CS group:** George McKeever, Steve Galloway, Tom Tierney, Anna Maria Braia-Salvi, Juudy Scrimger, Bob Hutchins, Judy Bakvis, Shirley Gillette, Karn Bell, Andre Huard, Elizabeth De Boer, Holley-Anne Tough, Al Couture, Eric Joyce.

**In other groups:** Ken Ljungar (GS-MES), Bonnie Ward (AS), Ron Messett ? (AS),

**Now retired:** Lucretia Sealy, John Hagemeyer (see Final Comps below), Bruce Sondergaard, Bill Neelin, Gary Black, Denis Lacombe, Serge Theoret, Louise Deguire, Harry Karasawich

**LWOP:** Michael Bell (Spain)

Our former CM complement of almost 300 souls has now shrunk to a total of 15 CS's and 3 in other groups. Contact me at [drdee@sympatico.ca](mailto:drdee@sympatico.ca) if readers know of any changes.

\* \* \*

**2010 Reunion – a message from Barrie Thomas**

Dear colleagues,

It has been almost five years since the last Reunion in September of 2005. During this period, we have had numerous enquiries as to when the next reunion will be taking place; so, it was decided that an email should be sent out to see how much interest there actually is in another reunion. As you know, that email was sent out, and the response was almost overwhelming that another reunion should be held.

As a result, the planning and preparation has been going on for the last few weeks, and I can now report that a date and venue has been selected. **The 2010 Telecom Reunion will take place on September 25th at the Kanata Golf and Country Club, 7000 Campeau Drive, Kanata 613-592-9417. (KGCC)** Please see the link below. We have our own private banquet room with a large covered patio directly off the room. Guests are encouraged to arrive at 4 PM for drinks. There will be a cash bar in the banquet room, and dinner will be served at 7 PM in the form of a buffet. Please see a copy of the attached menu. [http://en.clublink.ca/golf/golfcourse/overview.cfm?GOLF\\_COURSE\\_ID=1510](http://en.clublink.ca/golf/golfcourse/overview.cfm?GOLF_COURSE_ID=1510) Many who responded to our email questionnaire wanted to have a one day event. As well, there were also those who wanted the same type of venue we had in the two previous reunions; which were held over two days. After careful consideration, it was decided that this Reunion would be held on one day so that costs could be kept down. However, the first day of the previous reunions were always well attended; so a workaround was found that allows everyone to get together for a drink and a chat before the main event on the Saturday. Many of you know the Old Farts (Foreign Affairs Retired Techs) meet at the Eastview Legion every Wednesday at 11:30 AM with their CM, CS, CR, AS colleagues. This seems to be an appropriate venue for a casual gathering of whoever wants to attend and will be available to us on Friday September 24th. We will be sharing the space with members of the Legion using the facility at the same time, but there is enough room for everyone; so, if you would like to meet former colleagues and find that one day is not enough, then please come and join in. We are planning to meet from 12 noon until about 5 PM, although I don't think that is a hard and fast finishing time.

***Royal Canadian Legion  
Eastview Branch  
294 Cyr Avenue  
Ottawa, Canada  
Lounge Telephone (613) 749-7551***

Many of you who responded were also asking about whether a golf tournament would be held, much like the one(s) that took place at the last reunion, and possibly even the first one as well. Art Barrett has volunteered to arrange a golf tournament, and if anyone is interested in playing golf, they should contact Art ASAP; so he will have a clear idea of the level of interest. Art can be reached at **artbarrett@rogers.com** or **613-837-0765**

The KGCC banquet room has a capacity for 120 persons, which may become is a limiting factor at this year's Reunion; so please get your registration in ASAP. Once the 120 limit is reached, anyone wanting to attend after that time will be put on a standby list to replace any cancellations. The cost of the Reunion is \$47 per person and must be received by the undersigned before August 15th.

Who can attend this year's Reunion? As in the past, attendance is open to anyone who worked in the telecommunications division in Ottawa or abroad. Clerks, secretary's, couriers, storemen etc. (even managers) who worked in the division are also encouraged to attend. If you would like to invite friends along who were with the Department, but worked in another division, then please check with the undersigned first, although I don't think it will be a problem. Unless we fill up with registrations before, the cut-off date to register is August 15th. When registrations are full, an email will be sent out indicating such.

#### **TO REGISTER**

**Send the following information & cheque:** Make a cheque, \$47 per person, payable to: **B.D. Thomas\***

Provide your: Main Participants Full Name, Spouses Name, Full Postal Address, Home Telephone Number  
Email Address

If you coming from outside the Ottawa area, please include the name of the hotel/private residence and phone number where you will be staying.

**SEND YOUR REGISTRATION TO: 2010 Reunion, 60 Kincardine Drive, Ottawa, ON K2V 1B2**

Once you have posted your registration, please send an email to the undersigned indicating such.

Once your registration is received, an email will be sent confirming your registration. If you do not have an email address, you will be telephoned with the confirmation.

Any cancellations that cannot be replaced by the standby list, and the cancellation is received after September 11th, may not be reimbursed; although every effort will be made to reimburse someone which does not incur cost to the Reunion organizer.

\* Due to excessive banking costs, an account specifically called 2010 Reunion could not be created; so another chequing account with no charges was created, but it had to be made in the name of B.D. Thomas; which is why the cheques are made payable to B.D. Thomas. Hope to see you in September. Sincerely, **Barrie Thomas, barriet@rogers.com or 613-248-1441**

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## Memories from abroad

*An Email from Terry Hayes Jan 14, 2009*



Every year, while I was in Moscow, the Canadian Embassy played a softball game against the American Embassy; both Ambassadors were on hand to present the Air Canada trophy. Our team was generally bolstered by the American Attaché section because we had too few ball players to be competitive. These same imports played on our team during the regular season.

You will notice the late Tim Sullivan (sans cigar); we had other communicators playing but probably not this particular season.



In the Fasching photo, Mike Perrault is taking a familiar pose. He and Ron Abernathy played on our CanAm softball team. A note on Fasching, (I had to look it up because I couldn't remember how it was spelled) in case your readers haven't experienced this German tradition.

Fasching is carnival season. Originally it was a Pagan festival which came out of ancient Rome or Greece. In recent centuries, however, it has become more associated with the Christian Church. Officially the season starts on 11th November at 11:11am, although I've no idea why. This is the week when people are allowed to "flip out" and behave recklessly before the beginning of Lent, which is a much more serious time.

In our embassy the festivities started on time (11:11) in the Canadian Club; pick out your oldest tie because the first thing the embassy ladies did was cut it off.



## *Five hundred Billion Dinars - (good for a cup of coffee?)*

*By Howie Abbott (Received June 2009)*

Hi Dave, I just read your latest newsletter and as always it put my brain to work remembering things I had forgotten. I thought you might like to see what a multi-billion note looks like, in this case 500,000,000,000 Dinars from my posting in Belgrade, Serbia, Yugoslavia.

I'm leaving in three weeks for a six week visit to the island, have a good summer. I will have my laptop with me so will be in touch, as you said the advances in technology have sure made it easier. I remember having to ask DFAIT to pass a message to family members, then came the Fax which we thought was the second coming, now everyone is just a phone call away. With my GPS, my cell phone in the car and my laptop, wherever I can grab a signal one is never out of touch.

*(More from Howie February 24, 2010)*

We arrived in Belgrade Aug 1994 and returned to Ottawa in September 1996.

During our posting the Embassy was the bank and we wrote cheques to the receiver general to obtain German Marks for most of our currency as well as Hungarian Florents and very few Yugo Dinars as well as some US dollars. Very little shopping was done in Serbia as most of our groceries were purchased in Budapest. Gasoline for our cars was purchased from the Embassy as we had our own gas pump on the grounds of the Embassy. Dinar was used for some local trips. One embassy employee told me that just before our arrival they would go out for dinner and take bags of old dinars to pay for a regular restaurant meal but I did not experience that as the times we went out it was the new dinar or German marks. The airport was closed during our time there and we had bi-weekly road trips to Budapest for a courier run, as well as many admin trips for shopping and a road trip to Budapest everytime someone was flying out. It was necessary to drive to Budapest airport to fly out and return to Budapest airport where we would be met by the embassy car for the road trip to Belgrade. Nearly all trips were overnight and whoever went took orders and shopped at the Metro supermarket/department store for orders placed by each of the Staff members.



***More income tax tips – compliments of Howard Abbott:***

A friend informed me that I can claim the monthly fee for PSHC plan as a deduction but to do so I need a receipt from the pension office. I called 1 800 561-7930 and although I waited about 20 minutes for an agent when I did get through the girl had me set up in 5 minutes or less and also said I can claim the dental monthly fees as well. You will need your pension number which is available on the pay slip we get, usually once a year, in January. If you have not been claiming this deduction you can do so for the past 5 years and she agreed to have the receipt mailed to me covering that period.

***And from Roly Mailloux:***

Howie, Thanks for the info re PSHC plan and receipts for income tax. Why don't they tell you these things in the first place? I called this morning and was on hold for approx 3 mins before getting a human on the other end of the line. She promised to send me the necessary receipts for the past 5 years so I could claim the deduction on my 2009 income tax return.

\* \* \*

***Final Comps “In memoriam”***

***Members and friends of the CM/EL community to whom we have said goodbye***



**Legault, John**

LEGAULT, John Michael of Arnprior in his 68<sup>th</sup> year peacefully in his home on November 5, 2009



**Vic Sideroff** November 20, 2009



**John Hagemeyer** February 11, 2010

IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO -- John Hagemeyer of Chestermere, Alberta, Canada, passed away February 11, 2010, in Idaho Falls, Idaho.