



Radio Amateurs of Canada

Youth Education Program

NEWSLETTER #12

May 20, 2005

Many thanks to Neil Carleton (VE3NCE) for this timely article on the Mt. Everest Expedition, featured below. A couple of photographs of this event are also attached.

A PowerPoint presentation was made to Industry Canada at the recent CARAB meeting, earlier this month. The same presentation was later made to the RAC Board or Directors, RAC Executive and guests from ARRL and IARU. The presentation and the YEP program received much acclaim from Industry Canada, the President of the ARRL, Jim Haynie and the RAC representatives. This credit is truly shared by all the participating schools and their supporting clubs.

The PowerPoint presentation and related speaker's notes can be downloaded from the YEP WEBSITE.

Remember, one of the conditions of participation in the YEP is that you will provide us with details of the program which you used with your students. This information will be shared with all participating schools, so that everyone can benefit from your experiences. Please send this to me as soon as possible, to avoid the 'June Rush'.

Clubs, I would also very much like to have some feedback from you - how did the program work for your Club, what was your Club's take on the program?

What could be changed, added or improved to make next year's YEP better?

YEP SCHOOLS LINKED BY AMATEUR RADIO WITH MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION

May 19, 2005

Neil Carleton - VE3NCE

R. Tait McKenzie Public School

Almonte, Ontario

Amateur radio made it possible in April 2005 to link students at participating RAC YEP schools across Canada with the Kanatek Expedition at Mount Everest base camp. Students at schools from coast to coast

had their mountain climbing questions answered by Professor Sean Egan, of the University of Ottawa, as he stood outside his tent in the early morning light at Mount Everest base camp.

NATIONAL PROJECT

Dr. Egan of Almonte was a friend with a passion and zest for life. As a kinetics researcher, he investigated fitness and aging. With his boundless energy and enthusiasm, he used every opportunity with students to promote the life long benefits of fitness. This remarkable radio project started more than a year ago when I learned that Sean was returning to Mount Everest as leader of the Canadian Kanatek Expedition. His personal goal was the summit.

Sean agreed that speaking with schools from Mount Everest would be a great way to connect with students by amateur radio. He also thought it was important to promote wellness, fitness, setting a goal, making a plan, and working as a team - the same values teachers promote in classrooms across the country. What started as an idea for students at R. Tait McKenzie Public School, here in Almonte, developed into a national project. With the approval of Industry Canada, and the support of participating schools in the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) **Youth Education Program (YEP)**, a unique opportunity was created to connect students across the country by amateur radio with Professor Egan on Mount Everest.

APRIL 11 CONTACT

On Monday night, April 11 at 8:15 p.m. EDT, students, parents and community guests at 6 schools from coast to coast were listening by amateur radio for a signal from Mount Everest. It was 6:00 a.m. in Nepal, Tuesday morning April 12. At Mount Everest base camp the sun still wasn't up yet. Here in Almonte, an audience of more than 250 people whispered and stirred in our school gym as the T.V. crew set up and the clock approached contact time. Then, before we knew it, there was Professor Egan's voice all the way from Mount Everest. Contact time!

One at a time, 10 students at R. Tait McKenzie Public School, from kindergarten to grade 8, took turns stepping up to the microphone and asking Dr. Egan a question about his climbing adventure. Everyone listened intently to hear his answers as the mountain winds whirled through base camp. Before we let him go, I had the audience give a dramatic cheer to let him know that everyone here in his home town of Almonte was very proud of him.

SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

After the R. Tait McKenzie questions, starting in Halifax and working westward across Canada to Vancouver Island, students at each of the other participating schools took turns asking Professor Egan questions. It was so exciting to follow the conversations from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific. Through the wonders of amateur radio, we were linked across the country with Mount Everest on the other side of the world. Wow!

Our unique cross country contact with Dr. Egan at Mount Everest was called "Yakkin' With Sean". Each participating school received a magnificent "Yakkin" display banner from the expedition sponsor, Kanatek Technologies Inc., that featured images of Mount Everest, yaks, Sean, and the logo of the Radio Amateurs of Canada Youth Education Program. Participating schools also received Kanatek Expedition lapel pins, as well as commemorative hockey pucks to celebrate the world's highest hockey game that would be played above base camp by the Kanatek team on the Khumbu glacier on Mount Everest. Details about the Kanatek

Expedition, including all the daily blogs from base camp, are available at

<http://www.kanatek.com/everest>.

Viewers around the world were able to watch and listen to the event at R. Tait McKenzie Public School. With thanks to Storm Internet for donating a high speed wireless connection, the volunteer team of the Almonte Radio Repeater League (ARRL) transmitted our program live on the internet. Special thanks to ARRL volunteers Bob Clermont - VE3AKV, Phil St. Germain - VE3CIQ, and Dale Hennigar - VE3XZT.

Taking part in this unique experiment were, from east to west, Sir John A. MacDonald High School, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Grand Manan Community School, Grand Manan Is, New Brunswick; R. Tait McKenzie Public School, Almonte, Ontario; Walter Murray Collegiate Institute, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Chestermere Lake Middle School, Chestermere, Alberta; and Drinkwater Elementary School, Duncan, British Columbia. A big thanks to the many volunteers on our national team for making this such a successful and memorable project.

STUDENT QUESTIONS

R.Tait McKenzie Public School, Almonte, Ontario:

- Kindergarten: Marcus Smith - How hard was it to climb the mountain?
- Grade 1: Zachary Frew - How many people are climbing Mount Everest with you?
- Grade 2: Carlin Hannebury - How cold is it on Mount Everest?
- Grade 3: Katie Hawkins - Why did you want to climb the world's tallest mountain?
- Grade 4: Rachel Van Woezik - How and where do you set up your sleeping quarters each night on the mountain, and what are the safety measures?
- Grade 5: Alex Wilkie - What kind of special training do you have to take for climbing Mount Everest, and how long does the training take?
- Grade 5: Kassandra Whitby - Does the strong wind scare you?
- Grade 6: Kylie Kendall - What kind of food do you eat when you're climbing Mount Everest?
- Grade 7: John Reid - How hard is it to breathe on the mountain when you're so far up?
- Grade 8: Nick Jones - What part of Mount Everest are you on now, and what obstacles have you faced to get there?

Sir John A. MacDonald High School, Halifax, Nova Scotia (it will be great to have the school join the RAC YEP):

- Grade 10: Alexandra Winfield - What are the fears amongst the climbers?
- Grade 12: Alexander McKinnon - What are the plans when they reach the summit?
- Grade 10: Kyle Cousins - How you deal with hygiene?
- Grade 11: Graham Carey - What are the possible health risks involved in this climb?

Grand Manan Community School, Grand Manan, New Brunswick:

- Grade 7: Adrien La Chaine - When you reach the top of Mount Everest, will you leave a Canada flag there, and how big will it be if you leave one?
- Grade 7: Gregory La Chaine - How much time does it take you to return from the top?
- Grade 7: Chrysty Gaudet - What is the climate like? Does it compare to the Canadian climate?
- Grade 7: Courtney Guptil - Other than the physical training, how did you prepare for the climb?

Walter Murray Collegiate Institute, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (technical problems prevented the students from asking their questions):

- Grade 12: Nate Mirva (radio amateur VE5NAT) - What kind of radio equipment are you using for the expedition?
- Grade 11: Jill Slind - What kind of food do you eat at Base Camp and how did you get it there?
- Grade 11: Sagan Yee - How will the shinney game be affected by the environmental conditions?
- Grade 11: Gurvir Sida - What kind of wildlife is there?
- Grade 11: Victor Dong - How many hours of daylight are there?

Chestermere Lake Middle School, Chestermere, Alberta:

- Grade 6: Megan Ekstrand - What is the hardest part mentally to climbing the mountain? What keeps you from quitting?
- Grade 6: Brook Muri - What goes through your mind as you are climbing mountains?
- Grade 6: Jacqueline Wilson - When did you start mountain climbing. Have you always wanted to climb Mount Everest?
- Grade 6: Dominic Fasoli - How do you communicate with base camp as you climb higher and higher?

Drinkwater Elementary School, Duncan, British Columbia:

- Grade 6: Carley Wood - Will the mountain climbers be climbing ice?
- Grade 5: Kelsey Ohs - How long will it take you to climb the mountain?
- Grade 5: Chelsey Poilievre - Do you wear lots of clothing, or really heavy snowsuits?
- Grade 5: Dylan Van Loon - How do you go to the bathroom?

AUDIO RECORDING

An audio recording of the student questions and Professor Egan's answers from Mount Everest is available at the web site of the Almonte Radio Repeater League, at <http://www.igs.net/~va3aar/>. Click on the Mount Everest photo for links to the audio files. A CTV news feature, that captured the excitement of our Almonte event, is also available at the ARRL site.

SCHOOLS LINKED BY IRLP

To make it all possible, the expedition at Mount Everest base camp called the Kanatek office in Canada via satellite phone. The audio was directed into Kanatek's telephone conference bridge. The Halifax team connected to the Kanatek teleconference and routed the audio through the internet to the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) reflector in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Participating schools across the country connected to the Saskatoon reflector by amateur radio through their local IRLP nodes. The net control in Almonte, Bob Clermont - VE3AKV, coordinated all the school traffic from province to province. The event operator in Halifax, Bob Burns - VE1VCK, enabled the switching needed to steer the conversation back and forth between the expedition on Mount Everest and the schools taking part. Special thanks to the Halifax team volunteers Wayne Harasimovitch - VE1WPH, Rob Ewert - VE1KS, and Bob Burns, VE1VCK.

THANK YOU KANATEK

A very big thanks to the expedition sponsor, Kanatek Technologies Inc. of Kanata, Ontario, for the company's generous support. Thanks to the personal efforts of Terry Kell, Kanatek President, also of Almonte, students right across Canada were able to talk by amateur radio with Professor Egan on the other side of the world.

This was a first in Canada to have students from coast to coast connected by amateur radio with an expedition on Mount Everest. Kanatek's support for this unique national project was appreciated very much.

SUMMITS OF CANADA

Participating YEP schools have used amateur radio to talk with contacts close to home, across the country, around the world, and even out in space. In 2006, we hope to have students from coast to coast talking by amateur radio with members of the Summits of Canada Expedition as they climb to the highest points in each of our provinces and territories. Schools interested in the Summits of Canada project can e-mail [<education@summitsofcanada.ca>](mailto:education@summitsofcanada.ca) for details.

SEAN EGAN

We were all shocked to learn on April 29 that Professor Egan died on his way to Kathmandu. Sean was an inspiration to everyone he met. He died pursuing a lifelong goal and doing something he loved. Thank you Sean for sharing your zest for life.

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