



Radio Amateurs of Canada

Youth Education Program

NEWSLETTER #15

October 1, 2005

I have had a chance to chat, via telephone, with someone representing each of the schools in the YEP. There have been some changes, but everyone seems quite keen to get on with another school year and hopefully, we will see some additions to the program.

Now that the YEP is firmly established, of the things that we will have to work on this year is promotion. We need to draw attention to the benefits of the YEP on a local, provincial and national level. If any of you has ideas or means of bringing this about, I would love to hear from you.

I've been asked to put together a Power Point presentation for Industry Canada later this fall.

If possible, could you send me a .JPG picture of something to do with your involvement in the YEP? Perhaps a picture of your students doing something radio related?

Below, is a brief summary of the situation in each of the program's schools:

LESTER B. PEARSON HIGH SCHOOL - Burlington, ON

Contact - Mark Richardson (VA3OBO)

While Mark has retired from teaching, he is still very much involved with the school and its program and expects it to continue. A very enthusiastic new teacher, Andrew Lychy (VA3AJJ) is teaching the Grade 12 course and may be able to incorporate the YEP into his program.

The support from the Burlington Amateur Radio Club has been excellent and continues, with Mark as this year's club president.

Last year, the school YEP was able to graduate 20 students as Amateurs in the first semester and a further 10 students in the second semester resulting in 30 new hams. Excellent work, and Mark hopes that this can continue for the current school year.

Mark describes two major goals:

1. To introduce Amateur Radio to students
2. To maintain the students' interest in Amateur Radio

DRINKWATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Duncan, BC

Contact - Mark McMenamin (VE7EIC)

The BC schools are experiencing a special challenge: they are experiencing job action province wide, which will have a potential effect on extra-curricular activities and thus on the YEP. Certainly, teachers and administrators are focused on issues other than Amateur Radio while this is taking place.

However, Mike spoke enthusiastically about the Mt. Everest contact last year and how excited the students were about it.

This year, he is going to try to establish an Echo Link system for his program to get students 'on the air'. The school has only limited access to the IRLP repeater due to heavy traffic from the established Amateur community. He would like to get on to HF and has access to the transceiver, but maintaining an HF antenna on top of the school is not practical. He is looking for something that could be put up and taken down in an hour to protect it from potential vandalism.

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL - Victoria, BC

Contact- Terrance Berscheid (VE7TBC)

This school, like all the others in BC, is working under the job action restrictions, and the YEP activity may well be affected.

However, Terrance hopes to continue with the program. When I talked with him, the enrichment programs were just getting started.

MONSIGNOR DOYLE CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL - Cambridge, ON

Contact - Peter Bon (VA3PTB)

The program will continue into this school year. Three students achieved their Amateur Radio license last year and he will be using Amateur Radio with the Grade 11 and 12 students again this year, as an independent study program involving demonstrations and satellite work with VHF and UHF.

In this school, a five year construction plan will include facilities for an Amateur Radio station.

Peter intends to stay with VHF and UHF for the time being, although there is a possibility of obtaining an HF station from the sponsoring club - the Kitchener-Waterloo Amateur Radio Club.

SIR JAMES DUNN COLLEGIATE - Sault St. Marie, ON

Contact - Grant Kahtava (VA3JGK)

This school is new into the program. Grant says that his students are quite interested in getting involved with Amateur Radio and he hopes to establish an IRLP connection for them. He does have the equipment set up to establish a node.

He is also looking at the possibility of establishing an HF station.

RALPH McCALL SCHOOL - Airdrie, AB

Contact - Brian Jackson (VE6JBJ)

Brian has been teaching since August 11th and is very enthusiastic about his program. He continues to have a daily contact with Neil Carleton at the R. Tait McKenzie Public School in Ontario and his students are already well acquainted with the students in the Ontario school through the magic of IRLP.

Brian is planning a contact for his students with Tasmania in the near future.

The school board for Brian's school has provided and set up a VHF/UHF computer controlled tracking antenna system which should soon be in operation.

CHESTERMERE LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL - Chestermere, AB

Contact - Brian Jackson (VE6JBj)

Brian has left this school to work in Airdrie, but has maintained his contact with the school in the hope of getting the YEP to continue. There is not, currently, a licensed teacher in the school, but Brian hopes to infect someone on staff with his enthusiasm, by going to the school during some free time to set up equipment and run some demonstrations. He hopes to establish an IRLP link so that students can monitor ARISS activity and is looking into linking this school with his Airdrie school via ATV. The students are excited, the administration is very willing and the QCWA Wild Rose Chapter 151 is very supportive of the program. He just needs a teacher who is willing to take advantage of the advantages offered through an Amateur Radio program.

R. TAIT McKENZIE PUBLIC SCHOOL - Almonte, ON

Contact - Neil Carleton (VE3NCE)

Last month's newsletter provided detail about Neil's program.

This year, he has 31 students involved in the program doing SWL and Amateur Radio.

One of his main goals this year is to get an HF antenna set up on the school

WALTER MURRAY COLLEGIATE - Saskatoon, SK

Contact - Derek Bereza (VE5SD)

With the unfortunate death of teacher Brian Walter, last spring, the program has been interrupted. However, Derek will be making a presentation to the school staff about the use of Amateur Radio as a part of the program. A new teacher on staff has shown some interest and might be a possible recruit into the program. An HF station and antenna are ready to be installed, but will have to be put on hold until the situation is clarified.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL - Grimshaw, AB

Contact - Forbes Purcell (VE6FMP)

This program will be ongoing. Forbes is trying to get a youth group going in the school and to increase interest in ARES, with particular reference to recent situation in the US.. The school has access to HF equipment with the donation of two transceivers and the McKenzie Regional Radio Club will provide support and possibly help with establishing an HF antenna.

On the strength of this school's involvement with the YEP, another school, 100 km distant, may be interested in coming into the program as well.

GRAND MANAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL - Grand Manan Is, NB

Contact - Roger LeChaine (VE9BO)

Roger has left this school and now resides in Ottawa and holds the callsign VE3RLA.

Unfortunately, the program on Grand Manan can not continue without him.

What can you provide for a subsequent newsletter? Please send me an update of your program or any other information that might be of interest to the rest of the YEP participants.

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