

A History of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
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as printed in April 1974 High-Q.

Part 5 (conclusion)

When amalgamation of the two cities came on January 1, 1970, a publicity campaign was necessary to bring the fact to all Canadian citizens and the world in general. In this the LARC endeavoured to do its part in a manner to which they were accustomed. It has long been the practice of radio amateurs to follow-up their conversations with other amateurs in all parts of the world, by key, or voice, by the exchange of cards (or something similar) to confirm the radio communication. The cards are usually designed to give prominence to the country of origin, the call letters of the station and other pertinent facts.

For some special achievement, these cards sometime take the form of a certificate to advertise an event worthy of particular attention. The LARC chose to use this idea to publicize the amalgamation of the twin cities. A certificate was designed with our well-known "Sleeping Giant" as a background to the details of amalgamation.

When a local amateur communicates with another station by voice transmission or by Morse Code – it could be located somewhere in the immediate District, anywhere in Ontario or Canada or to any distant spot in the USA, Europe, Asia or Africa, even Australia; the conversation includes information on the amalgamation of the two cities, their location, population and industries. In the majority of cases, this stirs further interest and results in the mailing of our certificate which we call the Thunder Bay Award.

These Awards have been designed and financed entirely by the Club and has been (*mailed*) by the Thunder Bay Tourist Bureau who include Thunder Bay Tourist info with the award.

Our Club membership has been maintained at 15 to 45 since its formation in 1934 – which included members living in the city and associate members from the surrounding district. The membership represents all walks of life and includes public and high-school students, bankers, lawyers, technicians, teachers, retirees and even postmen. The ages run from 14 to 80.

That the spirit behind these undertakings by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club has always been high, is shown in the poem below. It was written by the late Hec Wilson - VE3DMZ.

Blow Your Own Horn

by Hec Wilson - VE3DMZ

Lakehead Hams let the world know
We're not all Indian or Eskimo
That during the summer, it would be nice
If we did have a little snow and ice
That most of us as a general rule
Speak only the French that we learned in school

Let them know what they'd have in store
If we never shipped grain, paper and ore.
Tell them we make busses, ships and planes
And are free of floods and hurricanes
How we have gained world-wide fame
For a variety of fish and abundant game.
That in most sports we do excel
(Just take one look at the NHL)
Our beautiful scenery compares with the best
and we are the gateway to the West.
So grab mike and key and holler loud
That of the Lakehead you are proud
From the North and South, the East and West
the Lakehead will always be there with the best.

LARC