

THE BIRTH OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF ONTARIO INC.,

The Radio Society of Ontario Incorporated was born out of the marriage of the Ontario Amateur Radio Federation and the Ontario Amateur Radio Association.

The marriage took place on March 19th 1963.

It all began with correspondence between Howard Fralick VE3CAB of Belleville, and Rowland Beardow VE3AML of Sarnia.

Prior to February 1959 attempts had been made to contact the Ontario Amateur Radio Federation, Gerry Moes was the then Secretary but it soon became apparent that the O.A.R.F. was primarily a club organisation of amateurs predominantly located around Metropolitan Toronto. i.e. Hamilton, Burlington, Toronto, Oshawa, Oakville, etc., and was not interested in the individual amateur, nor the outside confines of the Metropolis.

On February 28th 1959 as a result of a letter from Howard Fralick the thought occurred to Rowland Beardow VE3AML, that if we were to achieve anything in the Province of Ontario for amateurs it would be necessary to have an organisation embracing every amateur in the Province whether he belonged to a club or not.

With the original suggestion of obtaining Call Letter licence plates as a first objective, the idea was soon expanded.

Apparently we were not alone in thoughts for a letter was received from the Ottawa Valley Radio Club Incorporated--as a result of a contact between VE3CAB and VE3AML--this was from the secretary, who said, quote "We were amazed to hear VE3CAB talking to you in tones that indicated that you were way ahead of us. For this we are pleased and wish to provide as much moral support and encouragement as possible.---We hope to continue this co-operation,

PAGE TWO.

to other mutual problems." unquote.

It was now necessary to obtain funds to launch the objective, without money nothing could be done.

Various amateurs were contacted, especially those who would be sympathetic to the suggestion of a Province wide organization.

THESE WERE THE PEOPLE.

Howard Fralick.	VE3CAB.	Belleville.
Joseph Jeffery. QC.OBE.	VE3GB.	London.
Roger Leclair.S.J.	VE3CNV.	Sudbury.
Frank Start.	VE3AJ.	Port Arthur.
Russ Burmeister.	VE3DYB.	Sarnia.
Richard Roberts.	VE3NG.	Willowdale.
Lee Dougan.	VE3BZA.	Sarnia.
Tom Kennedy.	VE3NK.	Ottawa.
Gerry Spooner.	VE3DQL.	Timmins.
Rowland Beardow.	VE3AML.	Sarnia.

A letter was sent to the nine people on or about March 5th 1959, soliciting the sum of \$10 on a non-returnable loan to enable the new organisation to launch a publicity campaign. The sum of \$100 was very quickly received and the attempt at obtaining members to the new group was begun.

With Rowland Beardow VE3AML acting as Secretary Treasurer, and Lee Dougan VE3BZA as co-signer of all cheques etc the remainder of the ten who were taken from across the Province were elected as Directors, with the understanding that the organisation would apply for Incorporation as soon as it was practicable. When there would be Province wide elections.

In consultation with the other directors, and using the Nova Scotia Amateur Radio Association Inc. by-laws, the aims and objectives of the Association

PAGE THREE.

was issued.

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION WERE:

1. To realize the issuance of Call Letter licence plates.
2. To act as spokesman for the amateurs of the Province of Ontario.
3. To promote any idea, development or activity that shall be for the betterment of amateurs in general.

A fee of \$1 was requested from all amateurs in the Province.

By July, 3,105 letters had been mailed to the amateurs of Ontario advising them of the progress made to date.

On July 11th 1959 an offer made by Bill Crawford to print membership cards had been accepted which would be sent to each member.

Joe Jeffery Q.C., O.B.E., VE3GB. was looking after the by-laws for the Association, which had adopted the name of Ontario Amateur Radio Association until the application for Incorporation. When it might become necessary to select another name satisfactory to the Provincial Secretary.

By August 400 approx., members had been entered on the records.

Discussion was being held re the formation of a Licence plate committee to handle the presentation.

By August 13th 1959, a new element had reared its head. In a letter from one of the Directors he mentioned having received a circular letter from the Ontario Amateur Radio Federation.

PAGE FOUR.

On 22nd July 1959 a letter was received from Noel Eaton asking if the O.A.R.A. would agree to a meeting with the O.A.R.F., with the objective of a merger. A reply was sent early in August stating the O.A.R.A. would be pleased to meet in Sarnia, the date to be arranged to the convenience of all concerned.

This objective was difficult to achieve through many reasons at that time.

In the meantime considerable research was done on the licence plate problem.

During 1960 meetings were held with the Deputy Minister of Transport, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, and for the Association, Joe Jeffery Q.C. Lee Dougan and Rowland Beardow.

During 1961, through the auspices of Brian Cathcart, Minister of Travel and Publicity; the free QSL program was commenced, Lee Dougan VE3BZA and Rowland Beardow VE3AML doing a lot of the preliminary work.

The Secretary facilitated some 250,000 cards being distributed to amateurs through-out the Province of Ontario whether they were members or not.

In 1961 it was decided to start the incorporation proceedings seeing that nothing further had occurred with regards to merger with the other group. Capt Joe Jeffery QC was handling this and after some delay through choice of a name with the Provincial Secretary a name was found that was acceptable. The necessary papers were drawn up and sent to the directors for their signatures.

It was at this time that the merger negotiations were raised again by the Federation.

On December 2nd 1961 a meeting took place in London at the offices of Joe Jeffery Q.C. VE3GB.

Page Five.

Present for the Federation were;
VE3DJE. Robert Parry. President.
VE3CP. Thomas Hunter. Vice-President.
VE3DAR. A.K.Meen. Secretary.
VE3CO. W.F.Choat. Asst., Secretary.
VE3AWL. Eric Silk. Exec Comm. Member.

For the Association. were;

VE3AML. Rowland Beardow. Secy. Treas.
VE3GB. Joseph Jeffery. Director.
VE3BZA. Lee Dougan. Director.
VE3CNV. Rev Father Roger Leclaire. Director.
VE3DWN. G. I. McCallum. Proxy for VE3NG. Director.

As an Observer.

VE3CJ. Noel B Eaton. Director, Canadian Division.
ARRL.

Rev Father Roger Leclaire S.J. VE3CNV appointed chairman of the meeting, and Noel Eaton as Secretary.

Unanimously Agreed;.

That an amalgamation of the two groups is desirable for the benefit of all Radio Amateurs in Ontario.

Unanimously Agreed;.

That, in spite of the problems and difficulties admitted to be inherent in any such system, representation on the Board of Directors, or other governing body, of the proposed new organization, should be on a regional basis, such regions to be so defined as to have as nearly as possible equal population.

Unanimously Agreed;.

That both types of membership, ie club and individual, be available in the proposed new organization, but that voting for election of representatives, and on major matters referred by the Directors to the members, be on an individual basis. That is to say,

PAGE SIX.

a member club, when voting, would indicate the exact numbers of its members for and against each candidate or proposal.

That a committee consisting of Messrs Beardow, Dougan Meen and Silk be established to draft a preliminary constitution, recognizing the following:.

1. The amalgamated organization be governed by a board of Directors elected by districts to be established throughout the province, such elections to be by the members in each district.
2. The Board of Directors to be established to speak for the amateurs of the organization, making use of affiliated clubs as necessary in the opinion of the Board.
3. The constitution to set out, if necessary, those items which must be decided by referendum of all the members.

The name of the new organization was left to be decided at a later date, following a visit by Eric Silk to the Branch of the Provincial Government to ascertain what would be acceptable. Two possibilities were generally preferred, these being;

The Ontario Amateur Radio Society Inc.,

The Radio Society of Ontario Inc.,

The matter again went into a lull until March 19 1963 when a meeting was held at the Pines in Woodstock between the representatives of the two organisations.

Present;

Art Meen.
Tom Hunter.

VE3RX.
VE3CP.

Al Porter.
Lee Dougan.

VE3IZ.
VE3BZA.

PAGE SEVEN.

Eric Silk VE3VE.
Del SpactzelVE3AYS.

Rowland Beardow VE3AML.

Art Meen was appointed Chairman of the meeting.
Rowland Beardow was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

The pro tem officers of the Radio Society of Ontario Inc were drawn up;-

Art Meen President.

Vice Pres. Lee Dougan VE3BZA.

2nd Vice Pres. Rev Father Roger Leclaire. VE3CNV.

Honorary Counsel. Joe Jeffery. VE3GB.

Asst Secretary. (Corresponding) R. Beardow VE3AML.

Secretary. (Recording) W.F. Choat. VE3CO.

Unanimously approved.

Financial standing of O.A.R.A. was \$510.44. and the Federation \$637.36.

On March 28th 1963, a letter was sent out by Art Meen to all member clubs stating. "Amalgamation of the Federation with the Association under one Corporate structure now known as the Radio Society of Ontario Incorporated has been completed."

This I feel brings the record up to the beginning of the R.S.O. Inc and is taken from records and papers in my possession.

Rowland C.E. Beardow. VE3AML.
Past Asst Sec. R.S.O. Inc.,