



His Master's
Voice



MUSÉE DES ONDES EMILE BERLINER

Montreal in Space



Montreal in Space Opens

By Michael Delaney



The Musée des ondes Emile Berliner is proud to announce that the latest exhibition called “Montreal in Space” is now open. The official opening was on 8 May. Visiting hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 14:00 to 17:00. Visits outside of the regular museum hours can be arranged by appointment.



the exhibition team are: Michael Forest, Jean Bélisle, Antoine Cloutier Bélisle and Anja Borck.

Exhibition curator Michel Forest spent many hours trolling the archives and history of a large group of companies starting with RCA Victor, and then onto, Canadian Marconi Company, Westinghouse, Northern Electric as they moved into the relatively new field of aerospace technology. Another important company making a similar change was De Havilland Canada which quickly morphed into Special Products and Applied Research (SPAR) and finally into MDA. What Michel Forest uncovered was how important a role this group of companies just to the North of the 49th parallel played in the development of the modern aerospace industry. The exhibition team would like to acknowledge that they have been greatly aided by the support of MDA; from opening their vast research library in their West Island facility to lending several key objects for display in the exhibition.

The exhibition organizers and the MOEB would also like to thank all of the sponsors who helped contribute to Montreal in Space. MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. (MDA), the Entente sur le Développement culturel de Montréal, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec, the Édifice RCA and Home Depot.

Montreal in Space will run until 19 March 2017.

There was a lot of talk about the exhibition, both its form and content.

Photos by Tim Hewlings

This is the first exhibition that has been designed for the museum’s new location on Lenoir Street. A team led by Michel Forest has worked very hard to bring the story of how important companies in the Montreal area helped in the development of Space Research. The exhibition follows the work of various companies from their early days after the second world war, to the development of satellites like the Alouette series and of course, to the shining achievement of the Canada Arm.

There is a surprising amount of history to be covered with this exhibition. To help cover this vast subject the exhibition has been designed around a series of stations. Each station has a video screen that will scroll through the key events related to local companies that moved space exploration forward during the period covered at that station. Kudos to the team for managing to cover so much history in such a clear and concise manner. The key members of



The RCA model AR-88

By Tim Hewlings



The AR-88

The AR-88LF model was built exclusively in the RCA factory on Lenoir Street in Montreal.

During the war in Britain these radios were used to intercept encoded German radio transmissions. A network called "Y-stations" was set up throughout the country and was operated mostly by ham radio operators and housewives. The intercepted messages were sent to the renowned Bletchley Park decoding centre via Telex where code breaking took place.

In Canada, these radios were also used at the famous Camp-X espionage training facility near Whitby, ON.

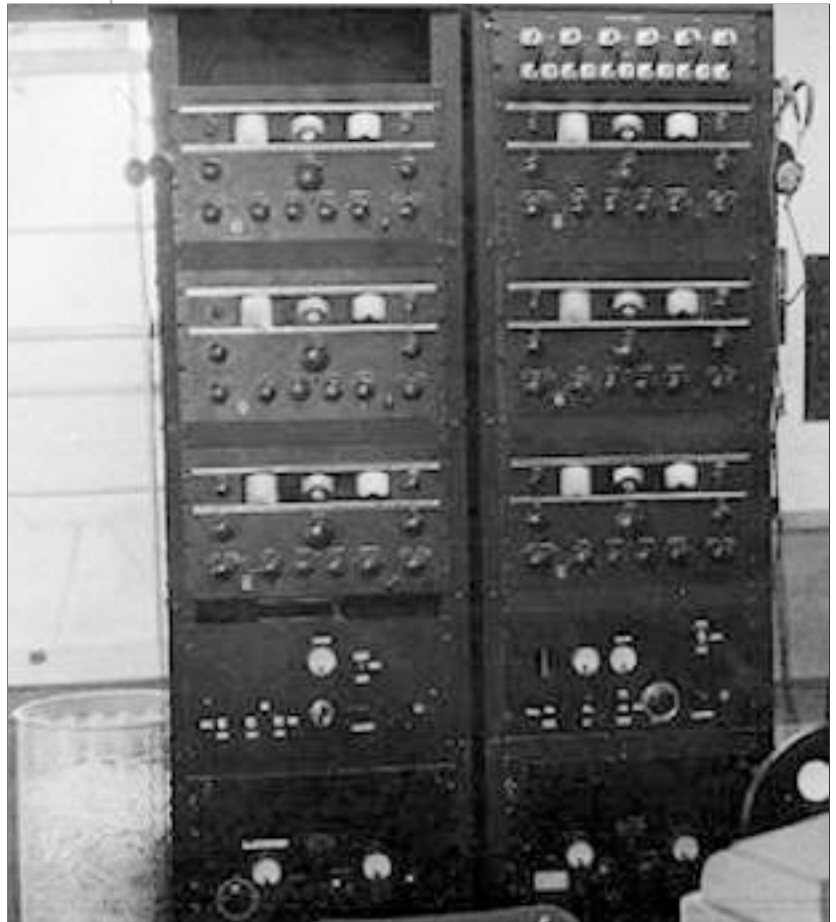
There was an iconic radio receiver associated with RCA in Montreal during WWII. The AR 88 has been called "RCA's greatest communications receiver". It was a multi-band short-wave radio, and was built with a "cost is no object" approach.

The design was completed in 1939-40, and it was rushed into production for use by the military in 1941. The radios were assembled in the RCA facilities in Bloomington, IN and Montreal, QC. The AR-88 had 15 tubes and was constructed with the highest quality parts. It was extremely rugged and weighed over 45 kg (100 lbs). It was to become a mainstay of the war effort in both Britain and Russia. More than 25,000 of these units were produced and most were shipped overseas. Almost the entire American production was shipped there and very few remained in the US. These units are still coveted by amateur radio operators and collectors.

There were two main production models - the AR-88D that covered the frequencies from 550 kHz to 32 MHz divided into 6 bands. The first band 550 kHz to 1550 kHz was known as the broadcast band, and is still the home of AM radio today.

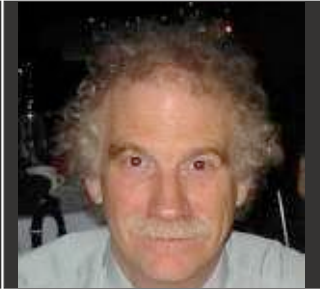
In the second model - the AR-88LF the broadcast band was replaced by a low frequency band from 70 kHz - 450 kHz. This Low Frequency Radio (LFR) was used primarily for aircraft navigation.

"Hydra" radio equipment at Camp X, 1942 (courtesy Whitby Archives, 29-000-003).



MOEB Auction

By Michael Delaney



On April 30, the Musée des Ondes Emile Berliner held a very successful auction. Over the course of the day an energetic group of 56 participants had bids flying back and forth and helped raise over \$4,000. A second auction held on July 16 raised \$3,645. Both auctions helped reduce the amount of space that the museum will be required to rent, as well as raising over \$7,000. All of the funds generated by the MOEB's auctions will be put into a fund that can only be used by the Acquisition Committee to purchase key objects to add to the MOEB's collection.



Registering to Bid. Photo by Galina Vorona

Prior to the auction several people asked me why the museum was holding an auction. How the MOEB arrived at hosting an auction is a long

Over the last year or so, space limitations have forced the MOEB to reassess its vast collection. This came to a head in the autumn of 2015 when renovations to the Lacasse wing of the Edifice RCA forced the museum to move the collection to a new location.

A Deaccession Committee was set up under Laval Rhainds, Jean Bélisle and Jean Marcotte. A policy was set up using standard museum guidelines and it was followed carefully as they went through the collection. In some cases, we had multiple copies of objects. Others were simply beyond repair or well outside of the museum's mandate, which is to collect, preserve, curate, research, depict, and exhibit audio artifacts, interpreting their significance — scientific and technical, social and cultural, historic and economic — to Quebec, Canada and the world.

After many hours spent analyzing the collection, a list of items that could effectively and legally be removed from the collection was finalized. These objects were first offered to other museums with similar themes. After this extensive process, the remaining items went to auction in April and July. The Deaccession Committee is now hard at work assembling a new list of objects that will go under the auctioneer's hammer in the autumn.

Bidders had plenty of time to study the items up for auction.
Photo by Galina Vorona



story that started about 20 years ago. Throughout this time, a competent group of members responsible for the Acquisitions Committee have searched high and low for interesting objects to add to the museum's collection. This committee, led by Laval Rhainds and Eddy Clement, has done a masterful job of ferreting out wonderful items that are within the Museum's mandate. Some of these objects have been used to dress the various yearly exhibitions that the museum has held. Objects not being used are presently housed around the Edifice RCA in various storage rooms that form our reserve. What started out as a small collection of microphones, radios and tape recorders has mushroomed to thousands of items. Some objects are very valuable and others much less so.



Anti-clockwise from above: The good sized crowd waits for the auctioneer to start; the auctioneer works the crowd; a quick discussion before a bid.

Photos by Robert Bisson.



Next His Master's Voice
 Studio Six and the Quebec music scene in the 1970s
 Walter Darling

At the MOEB

Feedback:

Via email on June 7:

"Regarding your bulletin...

The picture with Herbert Berliner, John Bradley and the unknown technician IS His assistant, a young Walter Darling, who went on to be one of the founders of Canada's first radio station CFCF, and later on worked with Associated Screen News. Herbert would later collaborate with both these organizations in broadcasting and synchronization of sound and film.

I worked for and with Walter Darling in 1953 for a few years... an amazing man who deserves to be recognized as an icon in Canadian Radio, film and sound recording. Most defiantly a genius... John Bradley who I also worked for and with was another incredible talent, worked in the record industry with Decca Records, Compo Corp, later as a consultant to Programmed Communications. John worked with many notable recording artists of the era, Michel Louvain, Neil Chotem, Felix Leclare.etc and also consulted for Decca records recording the MSO in the church in St Agathe. Thought you might be interested in the above.

Barry Lucking."

Via email on June 8

« Merci beaucoup pour ce courriel [avec la ligne de VSM 20-1] que j'ai trouvé très intéressant,
André Morin »

Guestbook entries:

Great exhibit and comprehensive history on Montreal's work in space technology. A great glimpse even for an employee [from the satellite industry]. Volunteer tour was very insightful on the history starting back from RCA radio days.

Fabulous exposition, brilliant idea! Certainly a gem that the city should support! Excellent (Ottawa)

La ville devrait en faire davantage pour vous aider à préserver le patrimoine montréalais.
Bravo a tous les bénévoles

Merci de conserver tous ces souvenirs. Quelle poésie là-dedans !

Excellent! Please fund this museum, Mr. Mayor. (Los Angeles / USA)

I was very well informed and guided by the attendant. He's good at telling the story. (From Sweden)

MONTRÉAL
DANS L'ESPACE / IN SPACE
08/05/16 - 19/03/17

MO
MUSÉE DES ONDES
EMILE BERLINER

VERNISSAGE **OPENING**
dimanche Sunday
8 mai 2016 May 8, 2016
à 14h00 at 2:00 PM

Le conseil d'administration a le plaisir de vous inviter à l'inauguration de la nouvelle exposition.

The members of the Board of Directors take pleasure in inviting you to celebrate the opening of the new exhibition.

L'exposition a bénéficié d'une subvention du Programme de soutien à la diffusion du patrimoine montréalais 2015. Géré par le ministère de la Culture, des Communications du Québec et de la Ville de Montréal, ce programme s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal.

This exhibition has received financial support from the "Programme de soutien à la diffusion du patrimoine montréalais 2015 - Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal" (the Agreement on the cultural development of Montreal) reached between the City of Montreal and the "Ministère de la Culture, des Communications du Québec".

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ENTENTE SUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT
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CDVL



by Jos Mathews

need for things that are solid and that can still be built and operated by hand. The creation and restoration of wood furniture are activities that have existed for centuries.

The cabinet of a radio constitutes the interface between the electronics and the user. Many hours can be spent transforming a damaged cabinet into an object for the collection and for exhibition.

Turning a shelf decoration into a functioning radio requires work on the chassis. This work requires an understanding of the inner workings of the equipment. These old radios, both tube and first generation transistor models are accessible to do-it-yourselfers with a reasonable knowledge of electronics. Usually, pieces built up until the early '70s can be brought back to life by simply changing a few parts.

The infrastructure of large companies like RCA, Philco, Zenith and others as well as their networks of distributors have long since disappeared. They have been replaced by small suppliers, not equipped to service equipment. The Chinese have become major players in refurbishing North American equipment that is not simply thrown into a landfill somewhere.

The CDVL members are always ready to volunteer their aid. Many helped make the MOEB auctions a success.
Photos by Robert Bisson

These 4 letters (CDVL) are an acronym for the "Club des vieilles lampes" literally "The Old Tubes Club" It refers to a group that has been part of the Musée Berliner for a number of years. It represents the technical side of the museum and is made up of several electronics technicians and other aficionados who meet their weekly.

Since most are retirees, they are able to become involved in variety of projects. Many non-functioning pieces, some that have not worked for a long period of time, are slowly brought back to life.

Many of this group are also members of the "Société Québécoise de Collectionneurs de Radios Anciens" (The Antique radio collectors of Quebec), a group of collector/restorers of old radios. Numerous young people fascinated by radio during the 50s and 60s, went on to careers electronics. Once reaching retirement, many maintained an interest in it returned to it with a certain nostalgia.

Modern electronics has become in many ways inaccessible to the amateur technician. Most of today's devices are not repairable and end up in the recycling bin. In our hyper computerised world where everything has become "virtual", there is a



Musée des ondes Emile Berliner: Calendar

Montreal in Space until 19/03/17
Les journées de la culture 30 sept,01,02 oct
MOEB Auction, Autumn 2016

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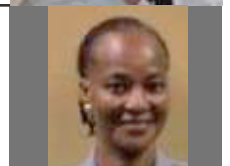
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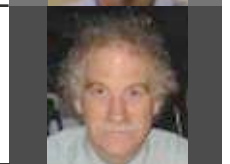
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