



MUSÉE DES ONDES
EMILE BERLINER

BIG CHANGES COMING TO THE MUSEUM



The Berliner Family visits Montreal

Left to Right: Samuel Berliner-Sachs, Anja Borck, Gaëtan Pilon, Todd Berliner & Jesse Emile Berliner-Sachs

October November December 2015, vol 19.1

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Pierre M. Valiquette



Greetings members and friends,

I am proud to announce that the Musée is embarking on a new journey. We have negotiated a long-term agreement with Cyril Pernod, Executive Manager of Édifice RCA and representative of the buildings' owners. This agreement not only solidifies our relationship with the owners, it will also provide long-term stability for the Musée's operations, and give us the solid footing required to engage in the projects we have been dreaming about for some time.

The agreement includes:

- Deployment of some artefacts from the collection as a permanent exhibition in public spaces and corridors of Édifice RCA. (In progress)
- A space for our temporary exhibitions, in the heart of the industrial complex, near the ZinZin restaurant. (as of mid October 2015)
- A space for a permanent exhibition (open reserve). (Beginning of 2016)
- A space for our permanent collection, the Club des vieilles lampes workshop, and our office. (Beginning of 2016)

In addition to this agreement, the Executive Committee of the Musée decided to create a permanent team of directors to help the smooth running of the Musée des Ondes Emile Berliner. The team consists of one Director, Michel Forest who started on the 01 Oct and who will be available one day per week, and an Assistant Director Anja Borck, who started on the 15 Oct and will have a four-day per week workload. Michel has a vast experience in museum directorship and knows the Musée des ondes Emile Berliner very well. In fact he has been the curator for nine out of twenty temporary exhibitions the Musée have put on since 1995. Anja just completed a PhD in Art History on Industrial Heritage, and has been member of the Executive Committee until taking on this new role. Over the last year she have been close to a full time volunteer and has been key to the Musée's developing a good working relationship with Édifice RCA.

As for the temporary exhibitions, the current exhibition, "Montreal Radio in Wartime" which is set up as a comic strip, is open for visitors in three languages, French, English and German, a first for the

Musée, and will run until February 16, 2016. Work is well under way for future exhibitions. Later in 2016 the Musée will open "Satellites in Saint-Henri! This has been assembled with the collaboration of Jean Bélisle, a founding member of the Musée and young retiree Professor from Concordia University. Jean will also participate with the team working on the 2017 exhibition on "Design"; industrial, graphic and technology related to the electromagnetic industry. This exhibition is linked to Montreal's design community effort to have Montreal recognized as a "design city". Montreal designers are organizing the first World Summit and Congress Architecture + Design + Planning, October 5 to 21, 2017. And for 2018 Anja is working on an exhibition exploring the relationship between kids and the media.

When I took on the presidency of the Musée last May, I set the objective of assuring that the Musée will have adequate resources to insure its development. Work is well underway in human resources and real estate. I will devote the coming months to stabilizing the Musée's financial resources. The plan is simple: improve self-generated revenues from exhibitions, increase membership and regularly solicit the community through interesting fundraising events (dinners, musical shows, conferences) and by calling for donations to help the Musée with projects that are close to our heart and also that of our members and friends.

A fund raising dinner was organized on September 23 2015, at Oyster Shack Restaurant, with Joseph Pereira, the owner and former member of the Musée's Board of Directors. It was a success! All expenses paid, we raised over \$ 4,000. Thanks Joseph for the place and meals, and Tim Hewlings for coordinating the musicians.

We are planning another fundraiser, this time at Studio Victor, sometime in November 2015.

Finally, we are looking for new members for the Board of Directors. So if the challenge of building a solid musicological institution with the help of some wonderful people interests you, let us know!



TURNING THE PAGE AT THE MUSÉE DES ONDES

by Anja Borck



New and old faces are active at the museum. In October 2014, I became a member of the Board of Trustees after finishing a doctorate degree under the supervision of Jean Bélisle one of the founders of the museum. As of October 2015 I will take over the position of Assistant Director, with Michel Forest as Director. Many of you know Michel Forest as the curator of previous exhibitions and of our current exhibition “Montreal Radio in Wartime 1939 to 1945”. The Board decided to share a permanent full-time position to allow the museum new opportunities to access government funding in the coming years. On most Saturdays and Sundays two new volunteers Melissa Pipe and Alexei Seguel-Diaz guide visitors through the exhibition. Once a month, Guy Lapierre takes over the duties on Sunday. Robert McDuff not only cares for visitors each Friday but also feeds our new facebook page with news and information. Remi Glorieux and I are organizing the volunteers and both of us fill in on weekends when needed. The museum would like to thank all of our volunteers; they do a tremendously good job keeping the museum going.

The Club des Vieilles Lampes meets as usual every Wednesday for lunch and is host to many new curious visitors. Both Jonathan Stern from McGill and Wolfgang Ernst from the Humboldt Universität in Berlin visited in the fall of 2014. Both are experts in the history of sound and sound recording. Jean-Marc Larrue from the Université du Montréal stopped by with his French colleague Giusy Pisano from the École Nationale Supérieure Louis Lumière in Paris. They are researching recorded sound for the use in theatres. We certainly can benefit from future collaborations with these high-profile researchers. Keeping a space for the Club and establishing a research library with a study area for students and teachers is a long-term goal for us. One more group of guests deserves mentioning. Todd Berliner with his family enjoyed Montreal's August heat and came by the museum. Part of the day was spent at Studio Victor. Thanks to Gaetan Pilon and Jean-Pierre Sévigny, the Berliner's had a great time with us.

We have had good media coverage from near and far over the last months and we have links to many of the published texts on Facebook. You can check out the following articles posted online:

<http://www.les7duquebec.com/7-au-front/donner-un-sens-asa-retraite/>

<http://montrealgazette.com/entertainment/arts/art-inabundance-during-journees-de-la-culture>

Our professional and volunteer team will embark on several new projects. Soon we hope to occupy a second, small exhibition room that will house some of our most interesting collection pieces in a permanent setting. For that, a review of our collection will take place. This is the most important as the collection will move into a new

storage room sometime in the near future. Criteria need to be established for the selection of the precious items that we have received due to your generosity. Research must follow to give each piece its proper historic context. Learning the history related to these items will give the public the tools to properly appreciate them. The technical aspect of many of our artefacts is a story in itself, as the members of the Club des vieilles lamps will tell us. We want to include other, often-overlooked aspects. Domestic entertainment technology has changed the way we go about our private and public lives. The introduction of portable turntables, transistor radios with headphones, and small portable TVs not only broadened the availability of music and broadcastings but changed the dynamics of family life. Other inventions have changed social dynamics on a global scale, most noticeably, technology related to wireless signal transmission, such as satellites. We want to explore the many diverse effects of the electro-magnetic wave industry in more detail and include the findings in our exhibition concept.

In 2014, the museum received a large donation from Emile Berliner's grandson Oliver Berliner. The objects are related to Emile's inventions and the history of sound recording. Jean-Pierre Sévigny, Tim Hewlings, and I have taken care of documenting the received items. We now have the task of sorting through the books, records and artefacts. If we do not receive more public and private funding, we may be obliged to transfer the donation to McGill University. The museum needs to be able to afford much more storage space for our growing collection than we are currently able to rent.

Much of our efforts must therefore go to fundraising events. An evening at the Oyster Shack with life-music took place successfully on September 23rd. A great thank you for their enormous efforts to Joseph Pereira from the Oyster Shack, and Pierre Valiquette, president of the Board of Trustees. For the festive season at the end of the year, a decorated tree will greet visitors of our Christmas Bazaar in November. The exact date will be published soon on our internet page moeb.ca and on Facebook. We still hope to hold some more events in 2015 in collaboration with Studio Victor. Follow the museum online. We will regularly post information on future events. If you would like to give the museum a helping hand, consider buying museum memberships as gifts for family members and friends, and participate in our upcoming activities. You can find the application online, send an email or give us a call. We would love having you with us.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW DIRECTOR

by Michel Forest



It is with great pleasure that I accepted recently to team up with Dr. Anja Borck and take over the role of Director of the Musée des ondes Emile Berliner (MOEB). I will assume that role on a part time basis while Ms. Borck, as Assistant Director, will complete the hours needed to be able to say that we now have a full time professional on duty at the Museum. This is a set-up that will enable us to access greater government funding in the future.

NEW EXHIBITION SPACE

I am happy to announce that one of the first impacts of this change is that the Museum will remain in the RCA Building. We have come to an agreement with its owners and will soon move into new exhibition and conservation spaces. The exhibition space, in fact, has already been set up in Room E-206 and it opened its doors on 07 October. Located right beside the ZinZin Restaurant, in the central section of the RCA Building, this space can be reached using the building's main entrance, at 1001, Lenoir Street.

ADJUSTING THE FOCUS

After having spent the last 10 years in the background as exhibition organizer, I decided to take on the position of Director because I believe it is time for the Museum to move forward in its development. This will not be accomplished by taking on a multi-million dollar construction project. That may happen at some point in the future, but today, the Museum needs a team able to create a professional environment, offer more services to the public and ensure the growth of the Museum's visibility and appeal both in Montréal and across Québec.

I am not only counting on the scientific and technological achievements of the company that Emile Berliner built and its subsequent incarnations, to raise our visibility. I believe it to be just as important that we highlight that the land that lies between the Lacasse, Saint-Antoine and Lenoir streets is one of the most important sites in creation of the "Global Village". In other words, the RCA Building site is one of the richest social heritage sites in Canada. The fact that a small company, located in one of Montréal's poorest districts played a major role in the achievement of planetary communications is, in my view, a feat that should be celebrated not only by Montrealers, but by all citizens of Québec and the rest of Canada. Our challenge is to promote this message and convince them of it.

I will seek to ensure our Museum's future through exhibitions that highlight history from the creation of recording technology and sale of records across the world to the transmission of sounds and information around the globe via satellites. We want to pay tribute to the scientists and workers that changed the world from Saint-Henri. I invite you add your voices to mine in this quest.

**LA RADIO MONTRÉALAISE
EN TEMPS DE GUERRE**

Монреаль
Радио...?

1939
1945

**MONTREAL RADIO
IN WARTIME** **19 avril 2015 -
19 février 2016**

**DAS RADIO UND
DER KRIEG IN
MONTREAL**

MUSÉE DES ONDES EMILE BERLINER
1050, rue Lacasse, Montréal
Métro Place Saint-Henri
Ouvert du mercredi au dimanche de 13h à 17h
Tél. : (514) 932-9663
info@moeb.ca

Next His Master's Voice

Herbert Berliner by Tim Hewling
RCA comes out of World War II

THE MUSEUM IS EXPANDING

A New Permanent Exhibition by The MOEB in the Édifice RCA

by Anja Borck



Today, we communicate around the globe and listen to music whenever and wherever we like, thanks to a technology that had its beginnings at the turn of the 20th century. An important part of this technological development took place in Montreal's RCA building. Every year for the for the past 19 years, the Musée des ondes Emile Berliner has presented a different exhibition on a variety of aspects of this outstanding history in its small presentation room. After reaching an agreement with the owner of the building, the museum can now go forward. We are making a major modification to the way we display the story of sound recording, as well as the far reaching innovations in electro-magnetic wave technology that took place in the Édifice RCA, and elsewhere. We now have ten showcases distributed throughout the building's foyers and corridors. Soon, we will fill these showcases and offer all the visitors to the RCA complex an unprecedented opportunity to explore this truly world changing process with a permanent exhibition of significant items from the museum's vast collection.

Europe, RCA Victor had over 3000 workers, employing a good part of Saint Henri's neighbourhood and producing a wide range of electronic goods. In the late 1970s, the last vestige of RCA in the building, the aerospace division was purchased by Spar Aerospace and moved out of the St. Henri plant to Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. This company was later became part of MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates (MDA) and continues today in satellite development. Over time, the old RCA building has been converted to serve other commercial purposes.

Three other showcases are placed close to our new exhibition space beside the in-house restaurant ZinZin. These exhibition showcases will focus on Emile Berliner and his many different international and social endeavours. Other showcases are close to the elevators over the four floors on the Lacasse Street side, with one showcase on each floor. These will exhibit the relationship between Montreal's music scene and the evolution of equipment for music reproduction.



RCA Radio display in the Lacasse Street Entrance

In the entrance at 1050, rue Lacasse, visitors will be greeted by an exhibition showing the development of the vacuum tube and its use in an RCA model "All-American-Five" Nipper radio. We began with a second, large display showing the 50 years of the RCA Victor enterprise in the main foyer entrance on Lenoir Street. In 1929, when RCA Victor took over the business, about 300 skilled workers occupied the shop floors. Ten years later and with a global war battling in

We hope to offer some online audio-walking tours to visitors in the near future. We are excited about this new museum new concept, and hope you will be too. Our newsletter will keep you up-to-date. Come by any time to explore the progress.

LE CLUB DES VIEILLES LAMPES

by Daniel Labelle

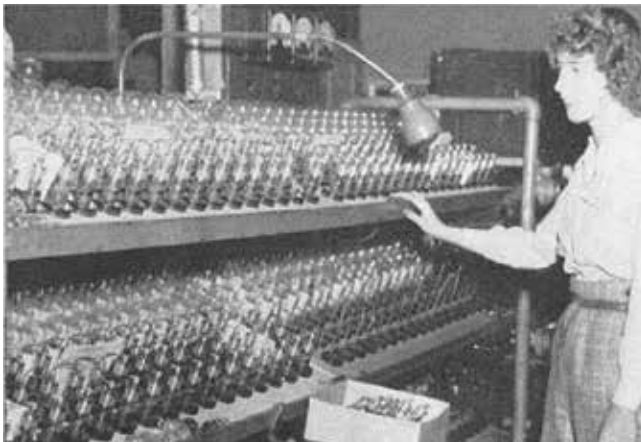


The name Club Des Vieilles Lampes translated literally means the Old Tubes Club. The club consists of a dozen or so enthusiasts interested in old electronic technology, from 1920's through to 1980's. Half of the members were technicians and the other half worked in other fields, but all share this interest for electronics and it is a dynamic ambiance where everyone shares their knowledge and techniques. Almost all are members of the Quebec Society for Vintage Radio Collectors.

This Club is thus a site for meetings, but also of conservation and restoration. Classic units are prepared, fixed or restored according to their needs. These objects are then displayed in the various expositions of the Musée des ondes. The club also takes care of the collections and the acquisitions of the museum. Occasionally they do repairs on equipment from outside the museum in exchange for a monetary contribution to help with the running expenses of the museum.



Vintage RCA Console being repaired



Tubes circa 1945



Lunch break for the "tubes"

CALENDAR

Montreal Radio in Wartime
running until 16 feb 2016
Exhibition now located at Romm E-206

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