



**HAMFEST, JULY 11, 2009 AT LANIGAN, SASKATCHEWAN. SEE YOU ALL THERE.**  
**Let's really help Lanigan celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

**IMPORTANT: Remember to bring your 2009 SARL membership cards. You will need to show it so that you get in for free. Someone will be checking at the door.**

**From the President:**

We are less than a month away from the first day of summer although you would never think it with the weather lately. It is hovering around zero as I type this message!

I am excited that the Saskatchewan 2M Linked Net has returned home to Reflector 9300 and thanks go to the net manager, Harvey VE5HAW for keeping the net alive. It is great to see the longer roster of net controllers that we have. I think this is possibly the most net controllers there have ever been at one time. Great job Harvey and everyone that volunteers their time to take the net.

At this point, I think the board and members of SARL must thank Wayne Thompson, VE5DWT for many years of service to the SARL Board of Directors. Wayne has been a regular contributor to The QSO during this period and has represented SARL very well. Wayne, on behalf of the amateurs of Saskatchewan, please accept my thanks for your lengthy service and we wish you all the best with your future endeavors! Feel free to keep The QSO submissions coming!

The directors met in Moose Jaw last month and discussed a couple of changes. One of the major changes we would like to see is that the Directors serve two year terms with staggered year expirations. Upon any election, we could have an entire new board which could cause some big problems with continuity and procedural issues. Although it has never happened and likely never will, the potential exists and this is a logical change – something that other organizations use to facilitate personnel changes. Which areas have terms that expire this year are yet to be determined but as members of SARL, please be prepared to vote on this matter at the AGM.

The board also discussed the geographical boundaries from which SARL Directors are elected to and there was concern that some of them had been vacant for far too long due to lack of interest from the area. I suggested that perhaps we abandon the geographical limitation and simply elect five directors from the north of Davidson and five directors from the south, with staggered terms as outlined above. After discussion on the matter, the general preference of the board is to leave things the way they are. This of course presents challenges on filling those vacancies if we are to draw exclusively on amateurs that live in those areas. As with anything, the constitution is open to interpretation. If you take Article 5 at face value, it would appear as if we are perfectly within our right to elect/appoint someone to fill a vacancy in any area. If we choose to stay with this method, I would suggest if there are areas not filled with local people then be prepared to have your representative director be from another area of the Province, and possibly less accessible as a result.

That's it for me this issue. I hope to see you at the Hamfest in Lanigan!

73 Devon VE5DWR

## From the Editor's Chair de Val, VE5ACJ

Hooray, summer is finally starting to show up. Hopefully the weather was good for those of you who are seeding. Mind you, as I write this, they are now telling me that there is a chance of snow for Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Sheesh-enough already. I want some warm weather, so that I can get on with my summer plans. You know the gardening, the fence painting, the antenna work, and the shingles that need replacing. Oh well, I am sure we will get some nice warm weather eventually.

You will notice that the President Devon, VE5DWR has included some changes he would like to see in the Constitution. Please go to the SARL website, [www.sarl.ca](http://www.sarl.ca) and read what is there, and read the changes that Devon would like to see. Also if you don't mind, please print out the constitution so that you have it at the AGM and have a better idea of what is going on. Also on this same note, please make sure you come to the Hamfest. We need all our members, not just a scant 25 who do all the decision making for the rest of you. I do understand that some of our members are really getting up in age, and if you don't show, that is understandable, but the rest of the able-bodied members, please come and have your say at the meeting.

Next, it is not too early to think about where the 2009/2010 Hamfest will be held. If your club is looking for a great fundraiser, this is what you do. You host the Hamfest, and all the monies left over from hall rentals, or other logistics, belongs to your club. SARL does not get any of the money. All SARL wants is 2 tables (for free of course) and a place to hold their AGM. Now that is quite the deal, also, you will receive \$200.00 to help with the start up funds that are always required for a Hamfest, and no, you do not have to pay it back. I know, you are all saying, but it is difficult to do a Hamfest, sorry to burst your bubble dear friends, but when I did the Hamfest at Watrous and in Moose Jaw, there were only 2 people on the committee, one was VE5AC and the other was VE5ACJ. Not only did we have lots and lots of door prizes, the locations were easy to get at, and we had great crowds. So, now is the time to start thinking about the next Hamfest, who wants to do it? Please let us know at the AGM July 11<sup>th</sup>, if your club wants this great fundraiser.

▶▶▶ Lastly, this will also be brought up at the AGM, but I am asking the members that if they want the QSO by email, **you must send me a valid email address**. So far I have 5 members who wish this service. Now the next QSO will not be going out at least until Aug/Sept., so you have lots of time. **Just send me an email: [ve5aq@sasktel.net](mailto:ve5aq@sasktel.net)** and I will put you on the email list. **Those not wishing this service will still get their QSO via Canada Post.** ♦♦♦

## Saskatchewan Loses a Long-Time Ham by Val, VE5ACJ

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, Saskatchewan lost a long-time Ham. Basil Green, VE5NC.

I had met Basil only twice, and found him to be a very gentle person. He was kind, generous to a fault, and a very well educated man who believed that you never stopped learning.

Basil was one of 4 brothers and three of them were hams. Now all three got their tickets in 1939 or in around that time. At that time, they were VE4's. There was Fred, VE4IO, Charlie, VE4CG and Basil, VE4NC. Later once the war was over, and boundaries changed, so did the callsigns. Fred moved to Ontario and became VE3IO, Charlie and Basil became VE5CG and VE5NC.

Some of my information comes from Ben, VE5YJ who sent me the following. Ben first met the Green brothers at a Hamfest in Regina Beach in 1939. They had a mobile rig in a model A Ford. Now that must have been quite the rig, and being good old Saskatchewan Farm boys, I am betting that it caused quite a stir and lots of looks. Basil was very active at that time, and he was interested in six meters, and he worked most of Canada and the USA on six, and always on home built equipment.

Basil started out as a school teacher and then he went to work in the physics department of the U of S in Saskatoon. Once he finished teaching, he retired and moved back to the family farm west of Moose Jaw. Basil was an amazing man, he could carry on an intelligent conversation with you on any topic, and he never had enough hours in the day to learn all he wanted to.

Now the next time I met Basil was in 2002. I had just retired from the public school board, and decided like right on the spot that I was going to bet back into ham radio. So I took the bull by the horns,



kicked Harv out of the radio room and took over. I became an active member of CLARA, and used to check into the CLARA Net on Tuesday mornings at 1700Z on 14.120. Now this one morning I heard these two OM's chatting away, and just sat listening to them until about 1650, and decided that I must break into the conversation because our ladies net was coming on. So I broke in, and said "excuse me gentlemen, I just want you to know that the CLARA Net will be starting in about 10 minutes, and we certainly would not want to mess up your conversation." "Hear that Fred, the ladies want in", VE3IO de VE5NC. "No problem young lady, we will be finished before you want to start. VE5ACJ de VE5NC – and true to his word, Basil and his brother Fred were finished within the next couple of minutes. Now I made it a habit to get all tuned up, and just listened to Basil and Fred carry on their weekly conversation and always at the end of each, Basil would say," VE5ACJ, the frequency is all yours-we just kept it clear for you, 73 de VE5NC". Yes, Basil was a real gentleman. Basil and Fred carried on for a number of years, and then one day, I didn't hear either of these fine gentlemen, and often wondered what had happened. I later learned that Fred had had a stroke and was moved into a home, and that was the end of Basil and Fred's thrice weekly chats. I'm sure that Basil continued to listen for the ladies that came on, but he never broke in.

Basil was also an astronomer, and knew all the names and locations of the planets and constellations. The family used to kid him about lying out on the ground on his back looking up at the stars, and they always said that the stars were Basil's best friends.

I know the family of younger Greens will miss Basil terribly. They didn't own any encyclopedias, as they just went to Uncle Basil for the answers.

It is ironic that this wonderfully educated man, who helps so many and who lived alone on the farm at the age of 96, should move into the Mullberry Estates as his family was worried about him being alone, there where he was never alone, had a fatal fall down the stairs.

You will be missed Basil, not only by your family, but by friends who knew you, the students you taught, and the ladies of the CLARA Net. Thank you for always keeping our frequency clear for us. Here's hoping the band conditions are much better where you are now....73 VE5NC de VE5ACJ.

## **Saskatchewan HAMFEST 2009**

**Date:** Saturday, July 11th.

**Location:** Lanigan, Saskatchewan At the junction of Hwys 16 and 20 - [www.town.lanigan.sk.ca/](http://www.town.lanigan.sk.ca/)

**Hamfest activities will take place at the Arena/Town Hall complex, located near the north end of town on Main St., Lanigan.**

All services and attractions are within walking distance. Lanigan is a town of 1200, with all amenities ([www.town.lanigan.sk.ca/](http://www.town.lanigan.sk.ca/)):

Two motels, hospital, shopping mall, service stations, restaurants/coffee shop, museum, RCMP detachment, pharmacy, golf course (grass greens), parks and Lions Campground (reservations accepted 365-3107).

### **TENTATIVE Hamfest Schedule:**

**9:00 am - 12:00**

**REGISTRATION:** Free to SARL members, \$10 for non-members (really folks, a SARL membership costs only 5 bucks more!!)

**DOOR PRIZES:** Your registration makes you eligible to win one of many terrific door prizes contributed by participating businesses.

**9:00 am - 11:30**

**FLEAMARKET:** Share your Treasures!! Tables are filling up!

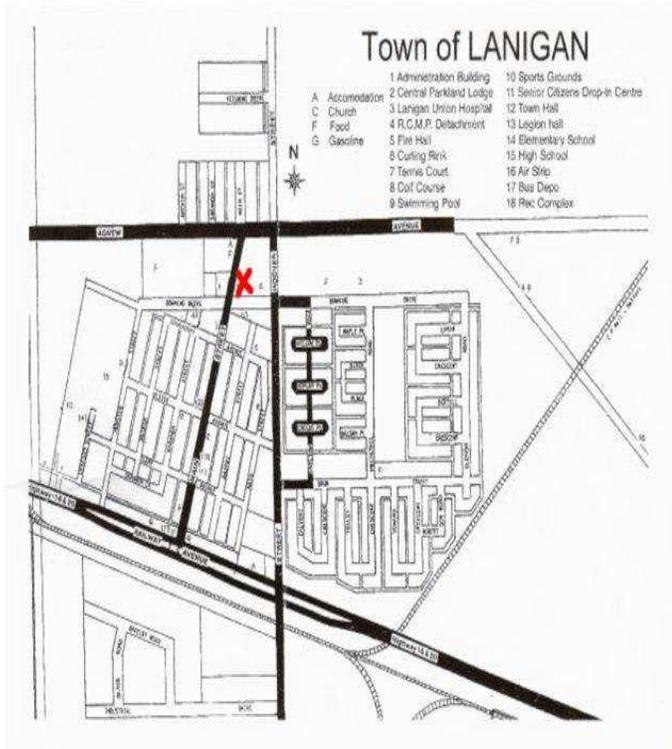
Please email [dfklatt@sasktel.net](mailto:dfklatt@sasktel.net) (David VE5GN) for table reservations. Cost \$2 for members, \$3 for non-members.



**11:30 – 12:00**

GROUP PHOTO: courtesy Murray Crandon, VE5MC - free file via Internet, or \$2.00 for hardcopy mail out.

**12:00 - 1pm:**



**HOSTED BBQ LUNCH:** This will be free for all registered attendees (soft drinks extra). The BBQ is being hosted by Pound Maker Agventures Ltd.

([www.pound-maker.ca](http://www.pound-maker.ca)) and is being put on by the HUB, a local boys and girls activity club.

**PLEASE NOTE:** there will be a voluntary collection at the BBQ, with all proceeds above the cost of the lunch going to support the HUB's activities.

### Afternoon agenda

1:00 - 2:30 AGM

2:30 - 3:30 DX-pedition - Murray VE5MC

3:30 - 4:30 Pound Maker Agventures Ethanol plant tour. The tour may take more than an hour anyway, including travel time (although that's only about 7 minutes each way).

**X marks the spot of the Hamfest.....See you all there. If anyone needs a Fleamarket Table, please send me an email, [ve5aq@sasktel.net](mailto:ve5aq@sasktel.net) and I will make sure your name is put down.....there are lots of tables left... so if you want to get rid of some of your "Golden Junk" please let me know.**

## AC/DC x 2 in Saskatchewan



I am sure that by now you have all heard that AC/DC is going to be in Regina this summer. Now I know that from experience that Harv, VE5AC cannot sing, play guitar, or anything musical. Not sure about Jerry, VE5DC, but I suspect that he can't do any of the above either, but you might be able to see them at the Hamfest. So there you have it- two AC/DC groups in Saskatchewan - WOW!

## **Moose Jaw and Area** de Val, VE5AQ:

Well, not much is happening in Moose Jaw. The weather has been lousy and for those of us who want to do gardening, it isn't happening, at least not yet. The Pioneers Amateur Radio Club had its last social supper for the summer on May 12/09. The food was great, but not too many folks were in attendance. We still have to have our summer BBQ, which may happen in August. The social suppers will resume in Sept. Now as Bugs Bunny used to say....Th-that's all folks. We will be back in the August edition of the QSO.

## **SE Saskatchewan & Area**

All is quiet in the S.E. at this time. Nothing to report.

73  
Joe, VE5CEM

## **Net Manager's Report**

Hello everyone, Happy Harv here the net manager of The Sask. 2 meter Link. I have had a great winter with all the check-ins and just because summer is near, let us keep the 2M link net going strong. We always need summer relief so anyone interested contact me at [ve5haw@sasktel.net](mailto:ve5haw@sasktel.net) or on IRLP node 1858 and we will schedule you in. The 2M link net is held every Monday – Friday at 9 PM CST / 0300 UTC on Reflector 9300. I hope everyone has a great summer and a safe climbing up on them towers Hi Hi. We also look forward to hearing all of you one the net as I will try to make an appearance as well. For more information, check out the SARL website at <http://sarl.ca/>. As a PARC member, we look forward to seeing you at the HAMFEST held July 11, 2009 at Lanigan, SK. Everyone have a fun and a safe summer.

73s from  
VE5HAW Harvey Wirth  
Your Net Manager of the Sask. 2 meter Link Net

## **The Story of Dick & Dan by VE5UJ**

Dear Val, once again a last minute effort but I have been preparing this letter for weeks now. Last week I had to purchase a small container of metal polish for a project I have been working on. This project involves the cleaning up of the antenna duplexer from the repeater on Last Mountain, VE5AT, and 146.85 MHz. Most readers will not have seen a duplexer much less the opportunity to take one apart so I will go into a more detailed explanation.

The repeater itself is little more than individual receiver and transmitter boards, each within its own shielded box and connected by multi wire cables to a microprocessor based controller. The logic within the controller turns on the transmitter whenever the receiver hears a signal and supplies timing, and other control features that we never think about until they fail. All of this equipment along with the storage batteries resides in the basement of the repeater building. The antenna, a vertical collinear design is atop a forty foot pole and is fed with half-inch co-axial cable. Now to connect this receiver and the transmitter to the antenna, keeping in mind that they operate simultaneously, requires some electronic sleight of hand (or circuitry) that makes use of very precise circuits made from four inch industrial copper sewer pipe. There are six of these big pipes, each 22 inches high and each with a large brass top on it. These are the circuits that allow a repeater station to function on a single antenna, and these are the pipes carrying years of tarnish that I am attempting to clean up with my metal polish. Tarnished inside surfaces threaten to reduce the efficiency of the repeater so the polished copper is not likely to be seen by anyone but me. I have done the outsides of two of them just to see the effect. These pipes (tuned cavity circuits) are quite a work of art and there is another story for me to relate.

In the 1960s, a couple of local radio operators would meet on 80 metre CW (Morse Code Transmissions) quite often in the afternoon. Many hours of CW and quite detailed discussions took place between Dick VE5PY, near Cymric and Dan VE5XB on the edge of the Touchwood Hills, near Arbury Post Office. Arbury was one of many country Post Offices that were active in the days after prairie settlement and eventually closed in the 1960s when transportation in the country improved. It was located east of Sask. Highway 6, between the towns of Southey and Raymore. I would get the opportunity to join their QSO at times but they carried on at a speed that soon played my arm out as I had chosen to remain a hand key operator while they had graduated to "bug" operation. Dan often told me that he learned his "Ham Radio" on the air using his brother's Bob's equipment. The three brothers lived on a small farm, miles from town. There was not much money for electric power or ham radio equipment but they made do. They generated their own power with a discarded washing machine engine, which drove a 6 volt car generator. The radio equipment was run from the battery and the required high voltage came from a 6 volt "dynamotor". Rather than my trying to describe this arrangement, a trip through an old "Radio Amateur Handbook" will provide ample explanation of the way dynamotors worked. This was the early 1950s and the surplus catalogues contained "fabulous deals" on war surplus radio equipment, all of which needed either 12 or 24 volts for operation. Two discarded car or tractor batteries could be charged one at a time and even in their condition could be counted on, series connected to supply enough power for some listening time and some times a short QSO before they faded away. Dan said the home built transmitter running off the 6 volt dynamotor was much more successful than the surplus equipment, as the car generator and "Iron Horse" engine could keep up to the energy demand. With help and encouragement from neighbour, John Lorence, VE5JN, Bob was licensed as VE5ND and the station was kept quite active with both he and Dan operating it.

Time came for the younger brother to move on and make a living in the world. That meant that Dan had to apply for his own call sign. The code was certainly not an impediment but he often commented that he just squeaked through the technical exams. In later years I assured him that most of us got our licenses through intervention of benevolent Radio Inspectors who could see our potential. His potential was demonstrated in the 1960s as he was on the air with a well built transmitter using a mail order, Italian made "Galosh" VFO (tunable oscillator) driving a well designed 50 watt 6DQ5 tube final. I think that by then, electric power had come to the farm as this transmitter had a "plug in the wall" power supply.

I had to admire the resourcefulness of the three brothers operating a subsistence farm. Walter was the manager and Dan, WW2 veteran assumed farm yard and household duties while the younger brother Bob was growing up.

Wes, VE5MF ran an appliance business on main street Govan, and was constantly looking for potential Hams among the locals. In the early 1960s, Dick Cardiff was successful as VE5PY and appeared on 80 metres operating a war surplus BC-348 receiver and an early Heathkit transmitter, model AT-1. Dick had a young family on the farm and resources were not that plentiful so most of his station was home built.

The CW QSOs were fine practice and competency was soon acquired. The topics were many and varied. Dick and Dan decided to try to contact each other over the twenty mile path on VHF phone using surplus FM transceivers. There was much information available in CQ magazine and other periodicals about converting this equipment to hamband use. All of this took a lot of time (no internet then) and most everything came by mail. Then special antennas had to be constructed and tuned up without suitable test equipment other than a "grid dipper" and an ohmmeter. It wasn't long before the CW contacts were not as commonplace due to the fact that Dick and Dan were in phone contact on the 147 Mhz. band. There were no repeaters around so every contact was simplex and some of the equipment was not quite as efficient as it might have been. I would join them on occasion with my converted taxi radio which needed constant "tweaking" to keep it running. Dick and Dan had built electronic keyers out of transistors from surplus IBM circuit boards bought by the pound from a vendor in Winnipeg. I became inspired to try building some projects

and found that stuff would actually work despite the fact that you didn't have the specific part numbers. Dick and Dan were "fearless" when it came to electronic projects and were always able to work around the shortage of required parts.

Some time in the early 1970s, Walter and Dan gave up the farm and retired into Southey. The 2 metre QSOs became quite marginal due to the added distance and the topic turned to Repeaters. Dan had always thought that Last Mountain, one of his and Walter's favorite visiting spots, would be a great place for a VHF Repeater. Our argument that there was no electrical power available in the "hills" failed to discourage Dan. He soon had researched "low energy requirement" equipment and became familiar with VHF repeater construction and practice. He had encouraged his neighbour Bob Roney to get his Ham ticket and so two antenna farms grew at adjacent addresses in Southey. Bob's callsign was VE5TG. Bob had retired off the farm at Bulyea years before and worked at a machine shop down town. He and Dan had discussed the "lack of power" problem on Last Mountain and were sure that sufficient energy could be wind generated with the right equipment. Bob set about to convert a 32 volt "Windcharger", relic of the 1930s into something that could be used to keep a 12 volt transceiver alive in the middle of a summer pasture more than a mile and a half from the nearest hydro pole.

The "VHF Engineering" line of products advertised in 73 Magazine seemed to be the answer for pasture dwelling repeaters so Dan ordered up enough kits to make up a repeater and sent them over to Dick for his approval. These kits contained top quality boards; well designed and with good quality components. Dick had soon turned the kits into a complete 25 watt repeater for which he had already been assigned a frequency by the provincial co-coordinator.

A home built duplexer had been described in QST magazine a few years previously and so the decision was made to reproduce it for use on Last Mountain. It is a timeless design, which still appears in ham radio technical literature. It required several hundred dollars worth of copper pipe and Bob VE5TG, suggested that he could make the brass tops for the pipes if we collected enough old brass for him. Discarded plumbing fixtures and machine parts were collected around the district and sent to Bob at Southey.

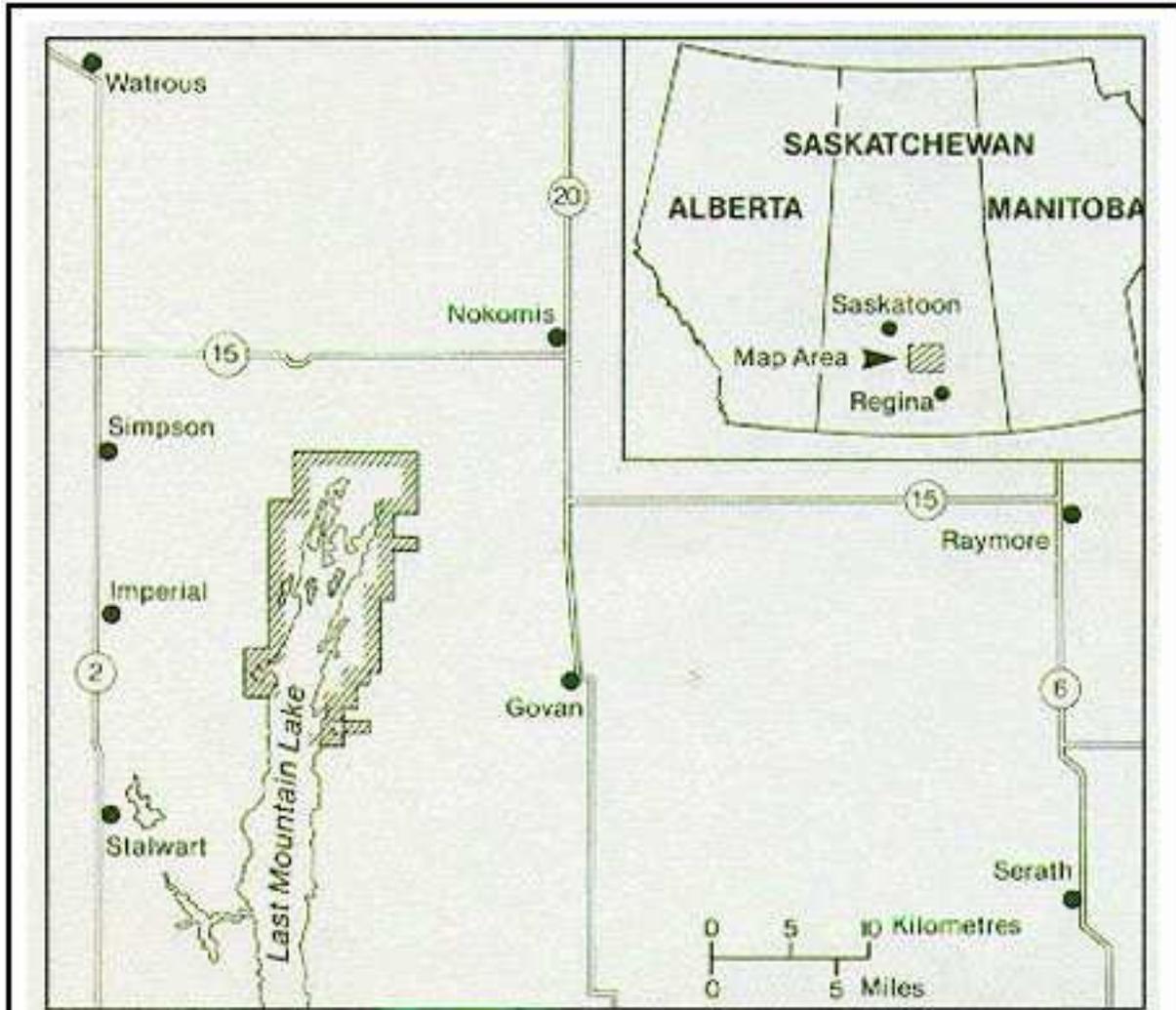
Bob actually melted down all that brass stuff in a converted gas furnace and poured six brass slugs from which he machined tops for the six cavities. In later years he told me that half way through the "melt" it looked as if his iron vessel would melt before the brass did and was sure he was going to lose the load. Time passed and the brass pour turned out fine and I think of his story every time I work with the Duplexer.

Bob assembled the pipes and Dick put in the co-axial connections and tuned circuits and had the entire system operating from his house by the spring of 1976.

Dan and Dick had acquired modern 2 metre transceivers by this time and had regular "skeds" on 146.52 MHz. We had a repeater in the district but no permanent home for it. One of the pasture owners on the highest part of the hills, Duncan Ross from Strasbourg, was aware of the project and suggested a site on his quarter section and even took us to visit it. Our Altimeter showed it to be within a few feet of the highest point in the hills, so we took up his generous offer. He agreed to our installation at no cost to us and we agreed to do some fence maintenance for him and we started work.

Dan made arrangements with one of his regular Regina contacts, Sid Brander, VE5DO who had a power line building business to bring his drilling truck out to the site to put up a pole donated by VE5IM at Watrous, a windmill tower from my farm and to dig a 8 foot deep hole which would be cribbed with treated wood planks. Most of this work was done in one day in July with the help of many hams and other acquaintances. Gudmund Thompson VE5TA from Bulyea used his truck to haul the tower and a small building to the site. VE5RQ, Ray from Bethune, Wes VE5MF and Dick VE5PY from Govan, Bob VE5NQ from Dilke, Don VE5SB from Melville and Lorne VE5LN from Nokomis were part of the crew. Drilling holes into a rocky hilltop all morning took its toll on Sid's machine and he and Bob VE5TG took a couple of hours out to replace a set of sheared off bolts inside the gear housing. The repeater enclosure was dug with the auger but quite a bit of the dirt

and stones were removed by hand. By the end of the day the hole was cribbed and back filled, and the pole and the tower were both standing in their permanent positions. Dick built the original collinear antenna and Wes VE5MF built and installed the mount on the pole. I don't remember the details but I expect it was Dick and I that mounted the wind charger on the tower. It worked like a charm right off and kept our tractor batteries well charged the first summer. Dan was well pleased with the results of the project and never lets us forget who came up with the first idea. It was the beginning of the project that continues to evolve to this day.



Located 4 kms north and 14 kms west of Govan on Highway 20. The park is situated at the north end of Last Mountain Lake, inside the oldest bird sanctuary in North America and home to thousands of birds. According to the oral history of the Plains Cree, the hills to the east of Duval were the last things the Great Spirit built during creation; the name Last Mountain Lake commemorates that tradition.

One of the oldest parks in the system, it was established in 1963 after three years of talks between the Govan-Nokomis Fish and Game League and the Province.