



# Preserving Canada's Nuclear Heritage NEWSLETTER

# No. 5

May 2020

Deep River, ON

This year, 2020, marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start-up of the Zero Energy Experimental Pile (ZEEP), the establishment of the Chalk River Laboratories and of the town of Deep River, “Home of Canada’s Nuclear Pioneers”. Many plans prepared to celebrate the anniversary were well underway before the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant shutdown of tours, visits, and the flow of new artifacts to the Society. Even with this limitation, we have made good progress on several fronts.

## Recent Activities

We made a presentation on our activities and plans at a meeting of the Rotary Club of North Renfrew in Deep River on January 22.

At the meeting of the Society Board on February 12, the Executive appointed Abra O’Leary and Herbert Mueller, recent arrivals at Chalk River from Alberta, as new Directors, with particular interests in the areas of Public Relations and Fundraising, respectively. Both Abra and Herbert are currently involved in the CNL team that is contributing to expanding Canada’s stock of ventilators.

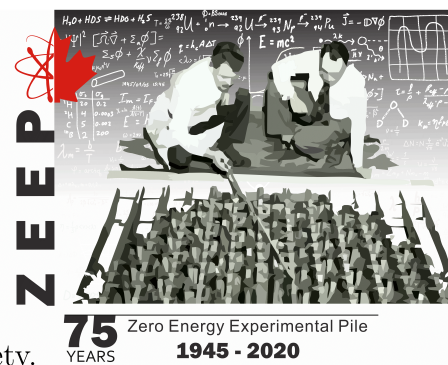
The Society made a well-received presentation to Deep River Town Council on February 19, including an [interview](#) with local radio station myFM 104.9. Council passed a resolution in support of our initiative, and subsequent contacts by Mayor D’Eon at the Canadian Nuclear Association Conference and Trade Show have led to renewed ties with staff of the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa.

On February 22, part of the Board of Directors spoke by telephone to Ian McGregor, the owner and operator of the Canadian Museum of Making in Alberta. He shared his perspective on how he has funded and manages that fascinating museum.

Four members of the Board, led by Abra O’Leary and Herbert Mueller, created a postage stamp and commemorative envelope to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the ZEEP reactor. The stamp is recognized by Canada Post as a “permanent” Canada issue and is being sold throughout the year at various events. We remind all members of the nuclear industry to raise a glass on September 5 to celebrate the start-up of ZEEP, regardless of the pandemic status.



We sold the stamps and envelopes, and had a display on ZEEP for the first two performances of the very engaging *The Sound of Neutrons* play at Mackenzie Community School on March 12/13. The play was a take-off loosely based on the start-up of ZEEP. Unfortunately, the pandemic lockdown interrupted the last three performances. The Society will be selling the stamps and envelopes at other events throughout the year, as the developing pandemic situation permits. If you would like to purchase stamps or envelopes, you can also contact Abra O’Leary directly at [abraoleary@gmail.com](mailto:abraoleary@gmail.com) or send a mail order directly to the Society.



Early in the year we invited AECL and CNL upper management to visit 51 Poplar St. in March. As visits are currently not possible, instead we held a tripartite teleconference with AECL and CNL managers on April 3. Future meetings and visits are planned.

We continue to regularly submit articles to the North Renfrew Times on the stories behind new items added to our collection, and interesting photographs and anecdotes from the early years of Canada's nuclear heritage. You can read these stories under the "In the News" tab on [nuclearheritage.ca](http://nuclearheritage.ca).

The Society and CNL/AECL have established a formal process for the flow of artifacts resulting from the decommissioning activities at Chalk River and NPD. This process has been assisted greatly by contacts at the labs who have been identifying the items and initiating the transfer paperwork. The transfer of several larger items such as the NRU calandria inspection tool are expected in the near future.



Bruce Heinmiller, recently retired from the Dosimetry group at Chalk River, returned to the lab in early March and identified, with his former colleagues, a trove of outdated radiation detection equipment as well as a 1:20 model of NRX built in the 1950s. Bruce has also provided the expertise needed to properly catalogue the large array of instruments.

The Society has established a page with retrospectives and bibliographical information on notable contributors to Canada's nuclear story under the "Pioneer Retrospectives" tab on [nuclearheritage.ca](http://nuclearheritage.ca). It welcomes additional contributions from people we have not yet profiled. Please contact the Society at [info@nuclearheritage.ca](mailto:info@nuclearheritage.ca) to discuss arrangements for adding them to the collection.

We have documented for future reference the procedures we use to catalogue books, pamphlets, and report series. Similarly a description of how we manage the Society website is to be prepared.

On the basis of several years of experience we now have in managing the Society, the Board will propose to the membership at the next Annual General Meeting two modifications to the Society By-laws. The changes will permit Directors to serve longer than two consecutive two-year terms on the Board, and will clarify how new and renewed memberships are managed.

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## Recent Additions to our Collection

Recent donations to the Society's collection include:

- Large collection of radiation measuring instruments and a model of the NRX reactor
- Vial for sample irradiations in NRU
- W.B. Lewis's personal dosimeter at retirement (Badge #11)
- Generator nameplates from the Douglas Point G.S.
- W.B. Lewis and Queens University medals presented to Dr. Al Pearson.
- A sample of the NRU calandria wall and the weld technique used to repair the leak in 2000.

Our collection of books and documents continues to grow as well. Tom Alburger, our Cataloguer, has now completed the cataloguing of over 1100 items, including more than 820 book titles, to international library standards.

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## Tours and Presentations

Society members hope to resume giving tours and making presentations on the Society's activities as soon as it is safe to do so. Let us know if you belong to a group that would like a tour of 51 Poplar, or would like to have a Society member make a presentation on our activities. Contact either Michael Stephens (613-584-9210) or Jim Ungrin (613-584-3055) to make tentative arrangements.