

## EDITORIAL / ÉDITORIAL

De mémoire, je crois que c'est la première fois que j'ai la chance d'écrire l'éditorial de l'Acoustique Canadienne. Je suis rédactrice adjointe depuis plus de 13 ans, mais l'occasion ne s'était jamais présentée de partager avec vous mes réflexions. Ceux qui me connaissent savent que mon champ d'expertise est axé vers l'audiologie et les sciences de l'audition. Je me permettrai donc de vous parler de mes préoccupations à l'égard de ce domaine de spécialisation. Je crois que ce que je vais dire s'applique aussi aux autres champs de l'acoustique au Canada, que ce soit en sciences de la parole, en génie ou en acoustique sous-marine, par exemple.

Sans vouloir être négative, je suis un peu découragée de constater que si peu d'étudiants canadiens optent pour des études doctorales en audiologie ou dans un domaine connexe. Nous avons un besoin urgent de relève dans les universités canadiennes, et le besoin est encore plus criant pour les deux universités francophones du pays, soit Montréal et Ottawa. J'encourage tous les professeurs d'université et les collègues qui côtoient des étudiants en formation à inciter ces jeunes à poursuivre des études avancées. Les perspectives d'emploi sont, à mon avis, excellentes et les défis sont nombreux. Nous avons besoin de sang neuf et d'idées innovatrices.

Plusieurs d'entre vous seront tentés de demander comment amener les jeunes à considérer poursuivre des études alors que le marché du travail est attirant et les salaires relativement convenables, du moins en audiologie. Par ailleurs, comment convaincre les candidats potentiels à se lancer dans des études qui les mèneront vers des emplois qui peuvent s'avérer très exigeants? On ne peut se le cacher, le travail de professeur ou de chercheur n'est pas de tout repos. Il faut constamment se battre pour obtenir des fonds de recherche et la pression est forte pour publier des articles. Ce travail doit se faire en parallèle avec l'enseignement et les tâches administratives. Il y a de quoi se brûler si on ne fait pas attention. J'ose espérer que cette période de travail intense sera considéré comme chose du passé lorsque la relève se manifesterá. Plus on sera nombreux, plus le travail d'équipe sera possible et plus le climat de travail sera sain. Il nous faut viser cet idéal si nous désirons améliorer la qualité de vie des gens aux prises avec des problèmes d'audition. N'oublions pas que 10% des canadiens sont atteints de déficiences auditives à divers degrés. Raymond Héту a su nous démontrer, par ses nombreux travaux de recherche, comment une atteinte auditive peut miner la qualité de vie des gens qui en sont atteints ainsi que les gens qui les côtoient. Raymond nous a légué un immense héritage. Il serait dommage de ne pas pouvoir poursuivre la voie qu'il a si activement tracée.

Pour terminer sur une note positive, n'oubliez pas de vous inscrire au congrès de l'Acoustique canadienne qui se tient cette année à l'Île du Prince Édouard. Nos collègues ont tout mis en place pour faire de ce congrès une expérience

mémorable. Venez en grand nombre!

Chantal Laroche, Ph.D.  
Rédactrice adjointe

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As far as I can remember, this is my first opportunity to write the Canadian Acoustics' editorial. I have been assistant editor for well over 13 years but the opportunity has never before presented itself for me to share my thoughts with you. Those of you who know me are aware that my field of expertise is oriented towards audiology and hearing sciences. I will thus share my preoccupations with respect to this field of specialization, but those preoccupations can also be applied to other acoustic fields in Canada, such as, for example, speech sciences, engineering and undersea acoustics.

Without wanting to sound negative, I am a bit discouraged to note that few Canadian students choose to pursue doctoral studies in audiology or related fields. There is an urgent need of new professors in Canadian universities, and this need is even more pressing for the two French universities in this Country, which are situated in Montreal and Ottawa. I strongly encourage all university professors and colleagues to motivate students in training to pursue advanced studies. In my opinion, job opportunities are excellent and challenges are great. We are in need of new blood and innovative ideas.

Many of you will be tempted to ask how to bring young students to consider pursuing advanced studies when the job market is very enticing and salaries are relatively expedient, at least in audiology. Moreover, how can we convince potential candidates to pursue studies that will lead to jobs that can become very demanding? We certainly can't hide the fact that the work of a professor or researcher isn't easy. We constantly need to fight in order to obtain research funds, and the pressure to publish articles is tremendous. This work must also be done in parallel with teaching and administrative tasks. If we are not careful, exhaustion can easily occur. I can only hope that this intense work period will be considered a thing of the past when we will have sufficient number of doctoral prepared professors. The more we are, the easier it will be to establish teamwork and to create a healthier job atmosphere. We must aim to reach this ideal if we want to improve the quality of life of people who experience auditory difficulties. Let's not forget that 10% of Canadians are touched by auditory difficulties of varying degrees. Through his work, Raymond Héту was able to show us how an auditory impairment can reduce the quality of life of those affected, as well as people in their surroundings. Raymond has left us a tremendous heritage. It would be a shame not to follow the path that he has so actively set out.

To end on a positive note, don't forget to register to the Canadian Acoustic convention that will be held this year in Prince Edward Island. Our colleagues have taken great care in order to make this convention a wonderful experience.

Come in large numbers!!!

Chantal Laroche, Ph.D.  
Assistant editor

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## Obituary - Tom Northwood - Past President of CAA-ACA

Compiled by Dr. Alf Warnock

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Tom Northwood died on Monday, June 11, 2002. Dr. Northwood was head of the Acoustics group at NRC from its inception until he retired in 1979. The following is the citation that was prepared when Tom Northwood received the W.C Sabine medal from the Acoustical Society of America in 1982.



### Orlando, Florida 1982

**THE WALLACE CLEMENT SABINE MEDAL** of the Acoustical Society of America is being awarded this year to Thomas D. Northwood for his contributions to architectural acoustics. His activities over a long and distinguished career have covered many areas in this field.

Tom was born in Peterborough, Ontario in 1915 and studied engineering physics at the University of Toronto, receiving his B.Sc. in 1938. After a short period spent doing design work with Northern Electric, he joined the National Research Council of Canada in 1940 as a research physicist working in underwater sound. After the war years, his area of interest was expanded to include architectural acoustics, and in 1948 he was given leave of absence from NRC to do postgraduate studies in seismology. He received his MA in 1950 and his Ph.D. in 1952 from the University of Toronto, both in Physics. He rejoined the National Research Council to head a new research section concerned with structural dynamics, building acoustics and vibration, noise, and related matters. He held this position in the Division of Building Research until his retirement in 1979. These activities in building research and acoustical testing developed quite naturally into a strong interest in acoustical standards. He joined the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) around 1951 and has been active on the Committee on Environmental Acoustics for over 30 years, serving as its chairman from 1966 to 1972. Over the years Tom has been active on many task groups and subcommittees charged with writing standards and solving problems in building acoustics. In 1975 he received the ASTM Award of Merit for

"outstanding contributions to research and development of standards in building acoustics" and was made a Fellow of the Society.

As chairman of the Canadian Advisory Committee on Acoustics reporting to the Standards Council of Canada he extended his work into international standards, and represented Canada at meetings of the International Organization for Standardization for many years. He has held membership in the Engineering Institute of Canada, the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, and the Seismological Society of America. He is a member of the Institute of Noise Control Engineering and a Fellow of the

Acoustical Society of America and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1962 he invited together a small number of Canadian acousticians to discuss topics of mutual interest and from this gathering, the Canadian Committee on Acoustics was born. The group has since grown considerably, and was recently renamed the Canadian Acoustical Association. Tom was President of the Association from 1979 until 1982. His most notable research interests over the years have included noise control, architectural acoustics, and the measurement of sound transmission and absorption. His considerable presence in the field of architectural acoustics led to an appointment as associate editor of the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America in 1964, a position he still holds. He has edited a volume in the Benchmark series entitled "Architectural Acoustics" and has published many papers in every area he has worked in.

Tom Northwood has had a long and productive career and made many significant contributions to architectural acoustics. The present award is a fitting acknowledgement of these achievements.