

## **Summary Ontario QSO Party 2017**

The 2017 Ontario QSO Party was held on Easter Weekend, or we could say Easter landed on the OQP weekend, as we always use the third weekend in April. In any event, participation was up from last year, but overall scores were down. Next year, Easter lands earlier in April, and in 2019, it again lands on the third weekend in April.

### **Bonus Stations**

In 2017, Canada is celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, and RAC has arranged a special prefix for all Canadian stations to use. The bonus stations – VA3RAC, VA3CCO and VE3ODX used their respective special prefixes, and this caused some scoring issues. None of the logging programs were updated to handle the bonus stations. While this may have been an issue on the air, we did handle the issue as part of the log scoring process, so everyone who worked the bonus stations received the extra points for their QSO's. It is also important to remember that this was a one-time occurrence. Next year, things will be back to normal.

### **Contest Records**

No new Canadian records this time around, but we do have several new U.S. records were set. Congratulations to WB9HFK in Illinois, KM4FO in Kentucky, K7ZYV in Mississippi, W1AJT in North Carolina, N9WL in New Mexico and KA6BIM in Oregon for setting new state records. Well done!

### **Youth Plus**

This was a new category 2017. Evgeny – VA3ATT offered to sponsor two Youth plaques – one for stations inside Ontario, and one for stations outside Ontario. We had four entries in this category, and based on comments received after the contest, it was a great success! Quite a few youngsters joined in on the activities, and had a great time making QSO's. Congratulations to Stan – VE3TW and his grandsons Adam and Roderick, otherwise known as "Team Smile".

### **Plaques and Trophy**

Igor – VE3ZF donated a trophy for best DX station, and this will go to Sergey - UT5IA.

We wish to thank all the plaque and trophy sponsors for their continuing support of the Ontario QSO Party. Winning is great, but having a plaque serves as an ongoing reminder.

Plaques will be handed out at the Contest Club Ontario's Annual General Meeting at the end of August. For those not in attendance, plaques will be sent out shortly afterwards.

### **Thanks for Your Participation**

Contest Club Ontario wished to thank everyone for taking part in our QSO Party, and we look forward to see you all once again in 2018.