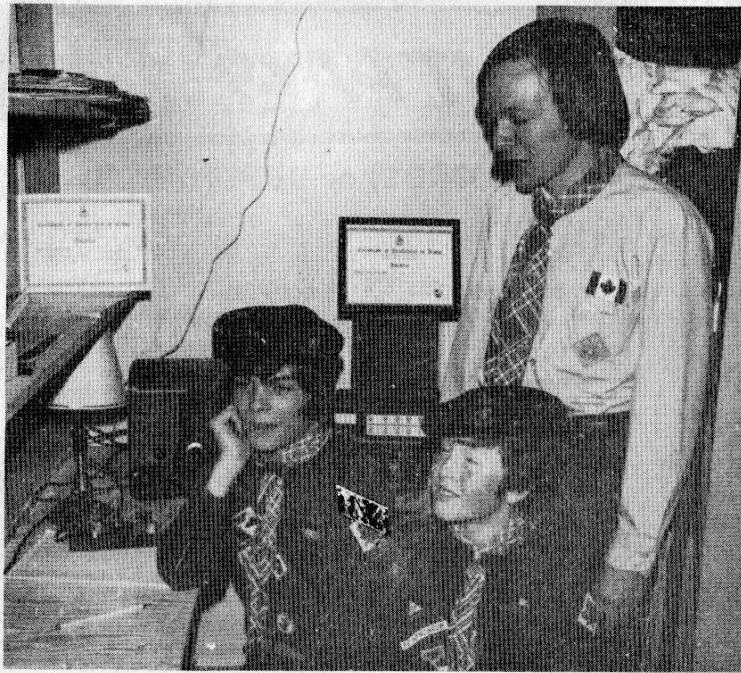


Area Scouts are new Hams 1977



Scout leader Cam Thomas instructed Paul Crozier and Jamie Mallory on the operation of a ham radio leading them to receive their certificates. Since then, eight more scouts have begun a course to get their certificates. (Phot by Dave Sorbie)

Area scouts are now ham operators

BY CAM THOMAS

Paul Crozier, age 12 and Jamie Mallory, age 13, both members of the 1st Kincardine Scout Troop were recently successful in passing their amateur (or 'ham') radio exam. Jamie now has radio call VE3IXP, and Paul's call sign is VE3IXO. Both boys have been studying for this since last summer with the help of the troop scout leader Cam Thomas, who is VE3CTQ.

In order to pass the federal government exam, both boys had to be able to send and receive Morse code perfectly at 10 words per minute, draw and explain schematic diagrams of different parts of radios, and pass an oral and written test on electronic and radio theory, rules and regulations.

This first certificate allows them to operate Morse code on lower frequencies (long distance bands, where contacts can be made around the world) and voice on higher frequencies.

Following one year of operation they will be eligible to write an advanced exam, which allows them to operate both Morse code and voice on the lower frequencies, as well as getting into a number of other activities hams are involved in, such as transmitting and receiving teletype and television signals.

Both Paul and Jamie are coming with the troop to P.E.I. this summer for the National Scout Jamboree, and will be able to use ham radio to maintain contact back in Kincardine with relatives and friends.

Throughout Canada there are only about 16,000 hams. Although it is not certain that Jamie and Paul are the youngest hams in the country, they are definitely very close to it. As a result of the success of these two boys and the exposure to radios in the troop program eight more scouts have started studying ham radio, and should be ready for the exam by early fall.



Paul Crozier and Jamie Mallory are at the ham radio they are now authorized to use with their operators licences. They are two of the youngest operators in Canada. (Photo by Dave Sorbie)