

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

*John Musgrave first observed UFOs in the early 50's in Southern California, and has been interested in the phenomena ever since. In addition to becoming our Canadian columnist, he is Investigations Chairman for the Edmonton UFO Society, Alberta Provincial Director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), and Canadian international committee member for Contact International (Canada). He studied the history and philosophy of science at the University of Chicago, Yale University, and the University of California, and at present is working on a history of 3-dimensional image reconstruction techniques, and a history of the use of electricity in psychiatry.*

#### *The need for co-operation*

## A Canadian UFO Network

*by John Musgrave*

When John Magor asked me to resurrect the column begun by Brian Cannon, I decided it would be best to use it to focus on issues that are particularly of interest to Canadian UFO watchers and investigators. As readers of *Canadian UFO Report* are already well aware, some of the most interesting and best documented UFO sightings in the world have taken place in Canada. And

in this and future columns I hope both to draw attention to patterns and interpretations of Canadian UFO reports, and to examine methods and means of investigating the UFO phenomena. I wish now to speak to a problem which may not seem very important, but which I believe is in fact quite fundamental.

In my opinion, the growth of UFO research in Canada has been and is inhibited by the fact that there is no truly Canada-wide UFO network to promote and coordinate the exchange of UFO reports and information among UFO investigators in Canada. To be sure, there are informal networks centering around a few individuals, and there are local UFO clubs in several Canadian cities which promote UFO investigations, and there are a few Canadian magazines which publish what Canadian UFO material they can get hold of, and finally, there have been a number of attempts to establish Canadian UFO organizations - perhaps the most ambitious of which was the short-lived Canadian Aerial Phenomena Research Organization. But I'm speaking to something somewhat different - the need for Canadian UFO investigators to begin to talk to and among themselves. Let me list some of the reasons I believe some kind of Canadian UFO network is needed, be it formally organized or not.

At present a great deal of UFO investigation is done in a vacuum. In my experience, the pattern seems to be the following: individuals or groups hear of a sighting, go out and interview witnesses, perhaps take photographs and collect samples, and then do nothing more with the reports. There are notable exceptions, but in