

Canadian Family Life - It's Twins!

by John Oldfield

Unlike the FCC, Canada's CRTC seems to think that a station can't survive financially in a small-town market. Thus many "big-city" stations (we'll call them "mothers") are licensed to give birth to "twins," creating radio families.

The CRTC expects these twins to provide about four hours of daily live programs from their own studios. The rest of the time, the twin is merely a relay of its mother. Some twins have no studios, but as the town or area grows (more advertising dollars) a studio is added. Even in Canada money is king (or is it queen).

Some twins provide more than a few hours of live programs, again joining the mother later in the evening. Some mothers would like that, hi.

Some twin networks like CJCI-620 join other families (CFBV-1230 and kids) to provide a 24-hour inexpensive network of nine stations. Five of these stations are unmanned 50-watt LPRT's, but some have easily been heard over 500 miles. CJYR-970 in Alberta now has three of these "iceboxes," a name given to their LPRT cousin a la CBC. Other stations with 50-watt mini-twins even have separate local commercials. Many DXers have mistakenly ignored these as potential DX due to their low power.

Most twins serve only a small area, so expect to find them on the "graveyard" or local service channels: 1230, 1240, 1340, 1400, 1450, and 1490. But some are on better DX channels: 590, 1220, 1250, 1280, 1370 and 1570. Recently, some twins are appearing on the FM band, so the DXer should be aware of the possibility of hearing the FM call letters or towns. CPTK-590 in B.C., CKBW-1000 in Nova Scotia, and CFCB-570 in Newfoundland all have FM twins, some with low power.

Rarely does a DXer hear a twin live on its own, as most local fun is aired during the daylight hours. Local football games, election results, or a speech from Mayor Glotz are the exceptions. It's an extra DX challenge trying to hear a twin on its own. Little CJNH is alone whenever mother, CJBQ-800, carries the CFL football games. CFWB-1490 is a good bet in season on the west coast. CKTA-1570 is fair game on its morning show, again in season, from the Pacific Northwest.

Newcomers to DXing may wonder why they hear a "Check 10-90" ID on 1570 (CKTA), or a "C-jock 12-20" ID on 1490 (CJPR). Don't be confused by ID's. As the DXer will hear only the mother's ID, let's just consider that all these twins are merely relayers. Canada's CRTC isn't too strict about IDing twins or even using the full call ID's. Many twins and mothers use mostly their slogans. Watch for East Kootenay Radio, "R" Country, Cariboo Radio, Central Interior Radio, Réseau des Laurentides, or even Stereo 97 (CHMM-FM Winnipeg feeds its all-night show to stations in Ontario).

Hear a "Stereo 97" ID on 900 or 1220? Don't bother phoning CKDR or CJRL. Twins are usually unmanned nights as the CRTC doesn't require any ticket man on duty. The CKGO-1240 staff is in bed, too, but their feed from mother, CHWK-1270, includes pre-timed separate ID's. That's one case where you won't hear an ID of a mother on a twin's frequency.

Twin hunters might try the Dr. Mollar method (he used it for DXing Mexican parallels) when hunting for twins. With an extra set tuned to the mother, it may be easier to hear or ID the twin on your regular set. A tape of the twin, plus other stations IDing on the twin's frequency, would prove to the CE at the mother station that it was the "relayer," not the "relayee," that you logged. Some CE's don't believe their 50 or 250 watt graveyard twin can be heard while it's easy to copy the same programs from the usual 10,000 watt mother. They also don't know that DXer's don't cheat.

Sending a tape is expensive, but a note saying that a tape is available would be nice. Your reports should go to the CE at the mother station. A twin's staff is usually small and busy.

To those who asked why a twin can't survive alone in an area of 10,000 plus, or aren't some just wasting space by duplicating service, I'll just say that those are good questions.

A list of all known Canadian twins appears on the next two pages. Any help/changes/additions are always appreciated.

@ Mother station s = station has a studio

BC British Columbia:

@CFCP-1440 & CFWB-1490s & CFNI-1240s located in Courtenay/Campbell River/Port Hardy
 "Coast Radio." CFNI is a CP.
 @CHUB-1570 & CHPO-1370s Nanaimo/Parksville-Qualicum Beach "Central Island Radio."
 @CHWK-1270 & CKGO-1240s Chilliwack/Hope "Fraser Valley Radio." CFVR-850 Abbotsford
 twins the all-night show. CKGO has an FM twin at Boston Bar on 106.1 MHz.
 @CKEK-570 & CFEK-1240s Cranbrook/Fernie "East Kootenay Radio"
 @CKKC-1390 & CFKC-1340s Nelson/Creston "KC" or "Kootenay Country"
 @CKXR-580 & CKCR-1340s & CKGR-1400 Salmon Arm/Revelstoke/Golden "R Country," "Big R,
 First Voice West of the Rockies"
 @CKOK-800 & CKOO-1240s & CKSP-1450s & CKGF-1340s & CKOOL-1490 Penticton/Osoyoos/Summer-
 land/Grand Forks/Oliver "Okanagan Boundary Radio." CKGF has new owners, but may still
 twin.
 @CHNL-610 & CHNL-1400 & CJNL-1230s & CINL-1400s Kamloops/Clearwater/Merritt/Princeton
 "NL Radio." Note two on 1400.
 @CKCQ-920 & CKWL-570s & CKXB-1240s Quesnel/Williams Lake/100 Mile House "Cariboo Radio"
 @CKPG-550 & CKMK-1240s Prince George/Mackenzie
 @CFTK-590 & CKTK-1230s Terrace/Kitimat "TK Radio." Also has 5 FM mini-twins in the area
 and may mention the towns.
 @CKNL-560 & CFNL-590s Fort St. John/Fort Nelson "NL Alaska Highway"
 @CJCI-620 & CIYH-1340s & CIFJ-1480 & CIFL-1450 Prince George/Vanderhoof/Fort St. James/
 Fraser Lake (last two are 50 watts)
 @CFBV-1230 & CFLD-1400s & CHBV-1490 & CHLD-1480 Smithers/Burns Lake/Houston/Hazleton/
 Granisle (last three are 50 watts)
 @CJCI & CFBV join networks for an all-night show, 0130-0900 ELT seven nights a week, on
 the "CI," "Central Interior Network."
 @CJDC-1350 & C...-1450s Dawson Creek/Chetwynd (CP)
 @CISL-940 & C...-1600 Richmond/Delta (CP, on in 1981 or 1982)
 @CBU-690 Vancouver has a shortwave relay, CKZU, 6160 kHz. Call letters are mentioned
 only at sign-on and sign-off.
 @CKWX-1130 Vancouver has a shortwave relay, CKFX, 6080 kHz. Call letters are not used
 on the air.

AB Alberta:

@CHEC-1090 & CKTA-1570s Lethbridge/Taber "Check Radio"
 @CJOC-1220 & CJPR-1490s Lethbridge/Blairmore "C-jock," "Pass Radio"
 @CJDV-910 & CKBR-1340s & CHOA-1400s Drumheller/Brooks/Stettler
 @CJYR-970 & CKYR-1450 & CKYR1-1230 & CFYR-1400 & CIYR-1230 Edson/Jasper/Grande Cache/
 Whitecourt/Hinton (last three are 50 watts) "YR Radio." Note two on 1230
 @CIOK-1310 & CIOK1-1340 St. Paul/Grande Centre
 @CFCN-1060 Calgary has a shortwave relay, CFVP, 6030 kHz. Call letters not used on the
 air.

SA or SK Saskatchewan:

@CJNB-1050 & CJNS-1240s North Battleford/Meadow Lake "Plus Two Radio"
 @CFSL-1190 & CJSL-1280s Weyburn/Estevan "SL," "Soo Line"
 @CKSW-570 & CJSN-1490s Swift Current/Shanavon "SW-SN," "Southwest Saskatchewan Radio"

MB Manitoba:

@CFAR-590 & CJAR-1240s Flin Flon/The Pas "Arctic Radio"
 @CFAM-950 & CHSM-1250s & CJRB-1220s Altona/Steinbach/Boissevain "Radio Southern Manitoba"
 @CHMM-FM-97.5 Winnipeg feeds its all-night show to nine stations in northwestern Ontario.

ON Ontario:

@CHMM-FM Winnipeg feeds its all-night "Stereo 97" show to CJRL-1220, CPOB-800, CKDR-900,
 CKIG-1340, CFAK-1240, and to any further twins of CKDR as may be approved (see below).
 @CKDR-900 & CKIG-1340 Dryden/Ignace (latter is 50 watts). CKDR also has applied for 50
 watt relays as follows: C...-1490 & C...-1450 & CKSI-1400 Ear Falls/Hudson/Sioux Look-
 out. Also an FM-99.5 in Red Lake. These mini-twins carry their own local ads.
 @CFOB-800 & CFAK-1240 Fort Frances/Atikokan (latter is 50 watts)
 @CFIX-1170 & CHBR-1110 Cornwall/Pt. Hawkesbury French; daytimers. Both will be per-
 mitted nighttime operation once they find a suitable frequency.
 @CFOS-560 & CFPS-1490s Owen Sound/Port Elgin
 @CJKL-560 & CJTT-1230s Kirkland Lake/New Liskeard
 @CKBB-950 & CKCB-1400s Barrie/Collingwood
 @CFBK-630 & CFBO-1340s Huntsville/Parry Sound
 @CJBQ-800 & CJNH-1240s & CJTN-1270s Belleville/Bancroft/Trenton
 @CFCL-620 & CFLH-1340s & CFLK-1230s Timmins/Hearst/Kapuskasing French
 @CJNR-730 & CKNR-1340s & CKNS-930s Blind River/Elliott Lake/Espanola
 @CFYN-1050 & CJWA-1240s Sault Ste. Marie/Wawa (may have dropped twin)
 @CFRB-1010 Toronto has a shortwave relay, CFRX, 6070 kHz. Call letters not used on the
 air

QO or QU Quebec:

(All are French except CFCF and its shortwave, which are English)

- @CKRB-1460 & CIRB-1240s St-Georges-de-Beauce/Lac-Etchemin
- @CKVM-710 & CKVT-1340s Ville-Marie/Temisaming
- @CJBR-900 & CJBM-1450s Rimouski/Causapsal Recently bought by SRC, may change calls to CBSL-900 & CBSM-1450, also may become relayers of CBGA-1250.
- @CJFP-1400 & CJAF-1240s & CHRT-1450s Riviere-du-loop/Cabano/Pohenegamook
- @CHGB-1310 & CHAL-1350s & CFVD-1370s La-Pocatiere/St-Pamphille/Ville-Degelis
- @CKCN-560 & CIPC-710s Sept-Iles/Port-Cartier
- @CHVD-1230 & CJMD-1240s & CFED-1340s Dolbeau/Chibougamau/Chapais
- @CKRN-1400 & CKLS-1240s & CHAD-1340s & CKVD-900s Rouyn/La-Sarre/Amos/Val-d'-Or
- @CKML-610 & CKMG-1340s & CKSJ-1400s & CKLR-1490s Mont-Laurier/Maniwaki/St-Jovite/L'Anno-
ciation "Reseau des Laurentides." CKMG gets its SRC feed via CBOF-1250; the others, via
CBF-690
- @CHLC-580 & CFRP-620 Hauterive/Forrestville
- @CKLD-1330 & CFDA-1380s & CKTL-1420s & CJAN-1340s & CJLP-1230s & CKFL-1400s Thetford
Mines/Victoriaville/Plessisville/Asbestos/Disraeli/Lac-Megantic "Reseau de Apalaches."
- @CFLP-1000 & CFVM-1220s Rimouski/Amqui Twin 50%
- @CFCF-600 Montreal has a shortwave relay, CFCX, 6005 kHz. Call letters are not used
on the air. English.

NB New Brunswick:

- @CKCW-1120 & CJCW-590s Moncton/Sussex CJCW studio time is 0500-1200.
- @CJEM-570 & CKMV-1490s Edmunston/Grand Falls (Grand Sault in French) French and English
bilingual.

NS Nova Scotia:

- @CKAD-1350 & CKDY-1420s & CKEN-1490s & CFAB-1450s Middleton/Digby/Kentville/Windsor
- @CHNS-960 Halifax has a shortwave relay, CHNX, 6130 kHz.
- @CJCB-1270s Sydney has a shortwave relay, CJCX, 6010 kHz.
- @CKBW-1000 Bridgewater has CP for 2 FM twins, but may go to AM band with one.

NF Newfoundland (and Labrador):

- @CJYQ-930 & CFYQ-1350s & CIYQ-680s & CHYQ-670s & C...-970s St. John's/Gander/Grand Falls/
Grand Bank/Musgravetown/Harbour Grace (CP) "Q Systems." Also have a deferred construc-
tion permit for C...-560 St. Anthony.
- @VOQM-590 & CKGA-730s & CHCM-560s & CKCM-620s & CKVO-710s & CKIM-1240s & C...-850
St. John's/Gander/Marystown/Grand Falls/Clareville/Baie Verte/Spaniard's Bay-Harbour
Grace
- @CFCB-570 & CFGN-1230s & CFNW-790s Corner Brook/Point aux Basques/Point aux Choix. Also
has 4 FM twins.
- @CFLW-1340 & @CFLN-1250 Wabush/Happy Valley-Goose Bay (each originates 50% of the pro-
gramming
- @CBN-640 St. John's has a shortwave relay, CKZN, 6160 kHz.

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