

# Cing <sup>STEREO</sup> 108

## ... SCALING NEW HEIGHTS IN BURLINGTON

Launching an independent commercial FM station in Canada is, at best, a challenge.

On September 24, 1976, CING-FM, a bright new entry in Burlington Ontario, became the nation's third such Station—after CFGL-FM Laval and CFMC-FM Saskatoon. It serves an affluent community of 106,000 just east of Hamilton, Ont.

CING-FM is the realization of a high school ambition for Doug Cunningham, the station's managing director.

Ten years ago, his interest in the media led him to sports reporting for the Burlington weekly newspapers. Then he followed with great interest in the application for a local AM station by a group which included Andy Bathgate. (That bid was turned down in 1968 in one of the first decisions made by the newly-formed CRTC. The frequency applied for, 1570, went to CHLO St. Thomas in the switch which cleared 680 kHz for CFTR Toronto.)

By the time Cunningham had graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1973 with a degree in Business Administration, his experience included radio news

and production—mainly at CHML, now one of his competitors—and writing on business for the Hamilton Spectator and the Financial Post.

The fact that he enjoys taking on a challenge became evident when easterner Cunningham went off to British Columbia to work in the investment business, during the socialist NDP government regime. He joined Pemberton Securities, where his duties included analysis of communications stocks. While there, Cunningham worked on one of the abortive proposals for channel 10—an exercise which proved useful when he came to prepare the CING application.

In September of 1974, he returned to the east to join Dominion Securities Harris in Toronto and to help out with family business interests in Burlington. There, thanks to the CRTC's moratorium on FM, the opportunity still existed to establish a local radio station.

Cunningham, intending to act merely as an advisor, succeeded in organizing 22 other investors to back the project. As it

developed, he did much of the research, wrote the brief and became a major shareholder, owning 17.5%—the largest share held by any individual.

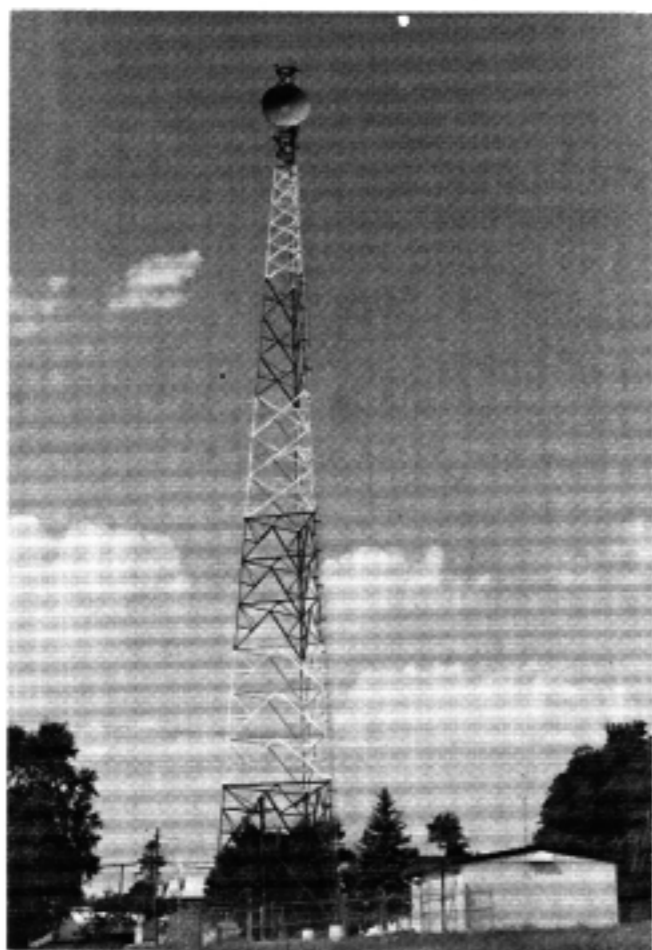
### Licensed April 9

The Company, Burlington Broadcasting, was one of the first applicants under the CRTC's new FM Policy. Its bid was heard by the Commission in January, 1976, in Toronto, opposed by two competing FM applications and CHWO Oakville. Approval was given by the CRTC on April 9, 1976.

CING hoped to become operational in July to cover an important local event, the International Games between Burlington, Ontario and Burlington, Vermont. But plans to install the studios and antenna atop a new commercial and apartment complex were stalled when the building went into receivership.

A new antenna site on the Niagara escarpment, to the north of Burlington, increased height significantly and was opposed by CHWO. The matter came before a public hearing in Ottawa on September 8, CRTC approval was given on September 23 at 3:30 p.m., and CING went on the air at 10:41 a.m. the next morning.

With competition from 25 AM and 15 FM stations within a 40-mile radius, as well as numerous U.S. signals, Cunningham sees CING's role as strongly community-oriented. Burlington is a prosperous suburban city, whose residents have a high degree of civic awareness and a



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lifestyle that is quite different from that of neighboring Hamilton.

In keeping with this image of its audience, CING produces a bright, informative, mature sound. It places strong emphasis on news and public affairs, with a staff of six full-time news people, plus two part-time on public affairs, and a "raft" of stringers. The station subscribes to BN Voice and wire services, CP's B and C wire and Reuter's financial wire. Cunningham brings his experience in the investment field into play with business reports which are part of major news packages aired three times a day.

CING's studios reflect its confident, professional approach. They're in a modern, stylishly-furnished, single storey building overlooking the busy Queen Elizabeth Highway. Present space is 2,900 square feet, with an additional 1,800 square feet available for future expansion.

#### Technical Facilities

Operating in stereo with 50 kw on 107.8 MHz, CING uses a Collins Generation 4 831G-2 transmitter with 17.3 kw input into a 3-gain, 6-bay Collins antenna with horizontal and vertical polarization. Stereo FM monitors are by Belar, and the remote transmitter control is Moseley's TRC-15. The antenna tower was erected by LeBlanc & Royle, and Cunningham still marvels over their efficiency in putting it up in just one day.

The facilities are a turnkey operation supplied by Applied Electronics. Cunningham gives full marks to Gord Ballantyne and Archie Wilson of Applied for putting together a combination of equipment which is reliable, interfaces well, is easy to operate and service, and reasonably priced. Availability and prompt installation of the equipment were also important factors.

Studio equipment includes Collins 6-channel consoles, Technics turntables by Panasonic, McCurdy cabinetry and Sony logging recorder.

Dave Swallow, a graduate in electronics from Mohawk College in Hamilton, is station engineer. Swallow was married the day after CING went on the air—any other "hitches" have been minor ones, and the most serious problem encountered was overheating in the transmitter building, quickly solved with improved ventilation.

#### "Talking Book" on SCMO

CING's new antenna site—which had to be approved by no less than nine regulatory bodies—will be shared with other services, including the Halton Regional Police. The station has applied for SCMO to provide a "talking book" service, in co-operation with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Oakville Public Library. A potential 20,000 blind persons will benefit from the service.

Another unique service to CING's audience is its mobile stereo recording studio. A Sparta console has been adapted to the vehicle, which is also equipped with a public address system. It opens up to become an instant control room for recording community productions, and has already be-

come a familiar site on the Burlington scene.

As he reviews the events of the past year and more, Cunningham, who just turned 25 but looks somewhat older, has high praise for the many people who have helped to make CING-FM a reality. The investors who risked their money, the hard-working staff who know they're up against some of the biggest stations in the country, consulting engineer Harry K. Davis, Sam Zeitouni of DOC and Percy Vaughan of the CRTC, who expedited the revised tower application, Harold Abernethy of the rep house of Stephens & Twondrow, who gets credit for coming up with the catchy call letters (pronounced "sing", of course) . . . and many others.

CING has a tough, uphill climb ahead,

but Cunningham is optimistic. Although it is a condition of licence that no advertising be solicited in Hamilton or Oakville, Burlington is enjoying steady growth and should reach 160,000 population over the next 10 years. Industry, too, is increasing, which means residents will tend to be employed locally, rather than commuting to adjacent Hamilton or to Toronto, 25 miles away.

Even now, the station's location in the heart of Ontario's prosperous "Golden Horseshow" gives CING a potential audience of 4.2 million Canadians.

Cunningham, who always did enjoy a challenge, believes that the realization of his youthful ambition of a Burlington radio station is indeed something to "CING" about!

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6 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1976

## CCBA BULLETIN



*Phil Stone congratulates fellow award-winner Doug Trowell.*

Enthusiastic participation by station engineers and equipment exhibitors marked the 1976 convention of the Central Canada Broadcasters Association.

Held October 17-19 at Ottawa's Skyline Hotel, the meetings featured 12 engineering papers, arranged by papers chairman Bill Marchand of CKLB/CKQS-FM Oshawa, Ont.

Management joined with the engineering section for a lively and well-attended panel discussion, "ENG vs. Super 8", in which ten participants outlined their experiences with each system for news coverage.

A complete report on the engineering program will appear in the January/February 1977 issue of BROADCAST EQUIPMENT TODAY.

### Engineering Executive

Elected to the 1977 executive of CCBA's Engineering Section were:

Chairman—Gene Hinz, CFCO Chatham  
Sect-Treas—Austin Reeves, CJOH-TV Ottawa

Publicity—John Evans, CKBB Barrie  
Papers—Bill Marchand, CKLB Oshawa  
Exhibits—Bill Onn, CKEY Toronto

### Annual Awards

Three popular members of the Toronto broadcasting fraternity were honored in the awards presentations which were part of the closing festivities of the conference:

• **Phil Stone** was named "Friend of the Industry", an award in memory of the late Ruth Hancock who was executive secretary of CCBA for eleven years. Phil is the director of the radio broadcasting course at Humber College and also hosts the weekly *Arts in Ontario* radio program; a writer and broadcaster since 1947, he joined CHUM in 1949 and later operated his own public relations firm, organizing Humber's radio-only course in 1971.

• **Johnny Lombardi** received this year's Howard Caine Memorial Award, honoring the broadcaster who has made a significant contribution to the community. "Johnny", who has long been tabbed "The Mayor of Little Italy", and has been involved in countless activities on behalf of Toronto's



*Johnny Lombardi and Phil Stone receive good wishes from BET's Jacquie Loney.*

multicultural community, founded CHIN Radio, which broadcasts in 32 languages, in 1966. The award was presented by Mrs. Jean Caine, president of CHWO Oakville and CJMR Mississauga.

• **Doug Trowell** is 1976 Broadcaster of the Year. Vice-President and general manager of CKEY, he began in broadcasting with CFPL London in 1946. Doug is a past president of CCBA and has served numerous other broadcast and community groups, including CAB, BBM Bureau of Measurement, Broadcast News and the Broadcast Executives Society. The award cites his "creative leadership in every phase of the radio field".

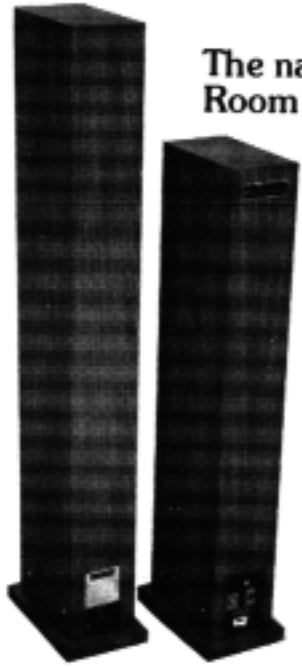
Awards of \$1,000 each went to Fanshawe College, London, Ont., and Conestoga College, Kitchener, for their achievements in radio and television, respectively.

The convention was capably chaired by Ross Hamilton of CKNX Wingham, Ont., who is succeeded as CCBA chairman by Michael Hanson of CHSC St. Catharines, Ont. Also elected to the 1977 management executive were Don Thomas of CFCO Chatham, vice-president; Bob McKeown, CKCO-TV Kitchener, director; and Bob Ancell, Northern Broadcasting, Timmins, secretary-treasurer.



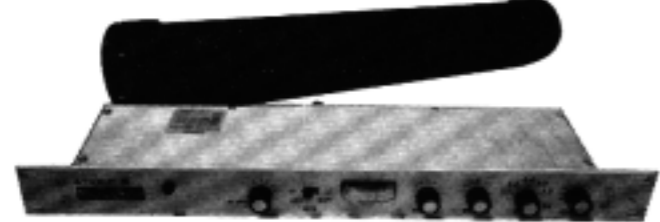
*Guests at CCBA awards dinner included CRTC Chairman Harry Boyle, CAB Chairman and CHUM Limited president Allan Waters, and Ralph Snelgrove.*

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# happenings

• *The Department of Communications is developing a policy for use of the 406-960 MHz band. The policy will form "an important input to the Canadian preparations for an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) conference to be held in 1979, which may result in significant international changes to the allocations of the entire radio spectrum". A background paper on the use of 406-960 MHz, which now includes broadcasting, mobile, fixed, amateur, radiolocation, radio astronomy, industrial, scientific and medical services, is available, and submissions regarding the policy should be sent by December 20 to the Department of Communications, Director-General, National Telecommunications Branch, 300 Slater St., Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0C8.*

• **Andy Betterton** has joined the engineering staff at CFRB Toronto. Previously with Marconi, Betterton was in charge of the installation of the FM combiner at the CN Tower. He will be involved with both studio and transmitter operations.

• *About the time you read this, CBC News, Ottawa, will be going ENG with two RCA TK-76's. Also included in the new facilities are Sony BVU 100 and BVU 200 recorders, Central Dynamics' EDS 202 editing system and Microtime 2020 time base correctors. They'll be located in the National Press Building. ENG operations are also planned for other CBC locations, including Toronto, Fredericton/Moncton and Montreal, where a "mini-mobile" will be part of the package.*

• **Paul Firminger**, chief engineer of CHYM in Kitchener, Ont., reports that 15 scrapers have just spent six weeks preparing the new site for CHYM's move to 570 kHz. Up to 35 feet of fill were needed to level a four-acre pond and other depressions on the property. (See article "Shoehorning A Frequency", BET, July/August, page 8.)

• *General Electric will likely get the contract for a new space project, in which Canada is participating. It will provide satellite communication to enable trans-Atlantic aircraft to maintain radio contact with the ground.*

• *What's happening with the Videodisc? An International Videodisc Programming Conference is being held in New York, November 15-17. The main contenders, RCA SelectaVision and MCA-Philips Disco-Vision, will be demonstrated, along with several other systems. Further information from: P.O. Box 102, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.*

• *NAB is urging the FCC to act immediately on new rules to provide additional remote pick-up frequencies for U.S. broadcasters by splitting existing channels. Business radio users oppose the new rules and seek a reduction in channel bandwidths and reallocation of some channels to the Business Radio Service. NAB says the long-term needs of land mobile users have already been met by the FCC. The U.S. association is also asking the FCC to allow stations to rebroadcast Citizen's Band messages. Apparently some broadcasters want to add CB-ers to their call-in and information programming.*

• **Norman A. McKellar** has been appointed general manager of the Electronic Marketing Institute of Canada (EMIC). He succeeds the late **David S. Rattray** who passed away August 18th, after retiring from EMIC earlier this year due to failing health.

• *The Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association of Canada (EEMAC) has a new address: 1 Yonge St., Suite 1608, Toronto, Ont. M5E 1R1.*

• Following the success of last winter's Detroit conference on ENG and digital video, the **Society of Motion Picture & Television Engineers** will hold similar sessions in San Francisco on January 28-29. Further information from: SMPTE Winter TV Conference, 862 Scarsdale Ave., Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583.

• *The topic which attracted the greatest interest from TV engineers at SMPTE in New York recently was "Computer Control and Signal Distribution in Television Broadcasting Centres". It came on the last day of the October 17-22 sessions—a busy week for engineers, with CCBA in Ottawa and IEEE in Montreal.*

• **Manta Sound**, Toronto, and **Les Studios Marco**, Montreal, will shortly be taking delivery of Neve 32-input/24-track consoles. Other recent deliveries by Neve have included IPS Studios, Morgan Earl Sound and Real to Reel, all of Toronto, while Sono Sud of Montreal will be installing a 24-track console.

• *RCA Broadcast Systems, Camden, N.J., has increased prices an average of six per cent, effective October 15th, as a result of higher manufacturing and materials costs.*

# directions

A review of recent announcements, decisions and policies of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### Halifax, October 6

Among applications heard at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax, commencing October 6th, were:

- Roderick M. Norrie, representing a company to be incorporated, for a new AM station at Bedford—Sackville, N.S., operating with 10 kw on 790 kHz.

### Cable Television:

- Hayward Burry, for a new system at Glovertown, Nfld.
- Mid-Valley Cablevision, Kingston, N.S., for additions to FM service.
- Seaside Cable TV, Glace Bay, N.S., for change of head-end site.
- Fundy Cablevision, Saint John, N.B., for extension of service area and rate increase from \$6 to \$6.50 monthly.
- A. C. Weatherby, licensee for St. Stephen, N.B., for change of antenna site.

## QUALITY TALKS FOR CJGX

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## Share Transfers

- Prince County Cablevision, Summerside, P.E.I.
- CHER Radio, Sydney, N.S. (CHER was recently granted a two-year renewal, during which improvements in management and programming were to be implemented.)

## CBC Rebroadcasters

- Church Point, N.S.—FM, 68 watts
- St. Albans, Nfld.—FM, 78 watts
- Ramea, Nfld.—FM, 779 watts; TV, 1.2 kw
- Hermitage, Nfld.—TV, 6,480 watts
- Kenora, Ont.—FM, 20 kw
- Dryden, Ont.—FM, 100 kw and 1.5 kw
- Sioux Narrows, Ont.—FM, 1.3 kw; TV, 5 watts
- Savant Lake, Ont.—FM, 78 watts; TV, 5 watts
- Osnaburgh, Ont.—FM, 81 watts; TV, 5 watts
- Pickle Lake, Ont.—FM, 83 watts; TV, 5 watts
- Pikangikum, Ont.—FM, 34.2 kw; TV, 5 watts
- Sandy Lake, Ont.—FM, 36.9 kw; TV, 5 watts
- At Sioux Lookout, Ont., the CBC plans to increase power at CBWDT-1 from 5 to 32,000 watts, with a change of antenna site.

- An association represented by Delano Fowler seeks a 5 watt TV rebroadcaster at La Scie, Nfld.

## FUTURE HEARINGS

- Nov. 16—Ottawa (Gov't Centre)
- Dec. 7—Toronto (Sheraton Centre)
- Jan. 31—Regina (Regina Inn)
- Mar. 1—Ottawa (Gov't Centre)
- Mar. 29—Montreal
- May 3—Vancouver
- June 7—Ottawa (Gov't Centre)

## DECISIONS

### AM Radio

### POWER INCREASES OK'D

Increases in power have been approved for the following stations:

- CJCH Halifax, N.S., to 25 kw, day and night.
- CFBC Saint John, N.B., to 50 kw, day and night.
- CKLD Thetford Mines, Que., to 10 kw on 1330 kHz; Radio Mégantic Ltée also

won approval for a new station at Disraéli, Que., to occupy CKLD's former frequency of 1230 kHz with 1 kw day, 250 watts night.

- CFDA Victoriaville, Que., to 10 kw, with a change of antenna site.
- CKSO Sudbury, Ont., to 50 kw, day and night, with a change of antenna site.
- CKX Brandon, Man., to 50 kw day, remaining at 10 kw night.
- CHQT Edmonton, Alta., to 50 kw.
- CJCA Edmonton, to 50 kw, with a change of antenna site.
- CJDV Drumheller, Alta., to 10 kw day, remaining at 5 kw night.

### Other approvals:

- Rang St-Gregoire, Que., a French-language station on 1300 kHz, 50 watts, daytime only, for the Agro-Forestier Development Co-operative of Temiscouata. A community access station, its revenues from advertising will be limited to \$1,500 per year, and its frequency is assigned on an unprotected basis.
- CFRW Winnipeg, for a change in frequency from 1470 to 1290 kHz.
- CFCN Calgary, for pattern change to improve daytime coverage to east.
- CJNW Musgravetown, Nfld., for change in program feed from CJON St. John's to CJON and CJCN Grand Falls.
- CBC, for rebroadcasters at Bonavista Bay, Nfld. (10 kw on 750 kHz) and Bella Bella, B.C. (40 watts on 630 kHz).
- Radio Inter-Cite Inc., for acquisition (100%) of CJEN St-Jerome and CJLA Lachute, Que.
- Radio Sept-Iles Inc. (CKCN), for transfer of shares (50%) to Marche BANCO Ltee.
- Radio CJVR Ltd., Melfort, Sask., for transfer of shares (100%) to Marchar Management Ltd.
- Sports networks were approved for CKNW New Westminster (Vancouver Canucks game of the week on 38 B.C. stations, addition of 12 stations to B.C. Lions football network); and CJCA Edmonton (addition of CIOK St. Paul to Eskimo football network).

A number of stations have been given raps on the knuckles along with their renewals:

- CKNW New Westminster and CKVL Verdun—open-line programs to be of high standard, affording reasonable, balanced opportunity for airing different views.
- CFTR Toronto—coverage and treatment

of news to be improved.

● CKLW Windsor—required to “assume its proper responsibility as part of the Canadian broadcasting system . . . to give full exposure to Canadian music, and to coverage of Canadian events, particularly at the local level”.

● CKSL London—licensees of CKSL and CJBK are to “avoid unnecessary duplication of services”.

● CKGM Montreal—request to use some French denied; “spoken word” programming to be increased.

● CFLS Levis, Que.—expected to carry out improvements in technical operation, personnel and programming.

● CJOI Wetaskawin, Alta.—control over content of foreign-language programs required, with accurate logging; decrease in public affairs programming and increase in paid religious programming criticized.

● CFOM Quebec City—renewed one year to permit CBC to continue using station as rebroadcaster of CBM Montreal.

● CJVA Caraquet, N.B.—renewed one year, with approval of share transfers. Originally licensed in 1973 for 810 kHz, CJVA is not yet on the air. The licensees, who now consider FM more feasible, were told that any FM application would have to be considered “on the same basis as that of any party applying for this service”.

● CICB, Cambridge Bay, N.W.T.—all necessary documentation to be filed “as soon as possible”.

The application of St. Albert Broadcasting Ltd. for a 10 kw station on 1070 kHz at St. Albert, Alberta, has been denied.

### FM Radio

#### DEC. 17 FILING FOR NORTHEAST N.B.

The CRTC is now receiving applications for French-language FM service to North Eastern New Brunswick. Applications must be filed on or before December 17, 1976, with the time and place of the public hearing to be announced.

#### SIX NEW STATIONS OK'D, THREE DENIED

New FM licences granted:

● **Barrie, Ont.**, 93.1 MHz with 100,000 watts ERP and SCMO, to Andrew F. Marple, a publisher of community newspapers in the area. He proposed using his staff and freelancers as community reporters. A competing application by Ralph T. Snelgrove, founder of CKBB and CKVR-TV, was denied.

● **Cobourg, Ont.**, 103.1 with 117,000 watts ERP, to Radio CHUC Limited. A part-time studio in nearby Port Hope was also approved.

● **Peterborough, Ont.**, 105.1 with 50,000 watts ERP, to Radio CKPT 1420 Limited, a CHUM Limited company.

● **Wingham, Ont.**, 107.1 with 22,000

watts ERP, to CKNX Broadcasting Ltd. Distinctive local service from that of CFPL-FM London—the stations are both owned by the London Free Press—is to be provided by the new station.

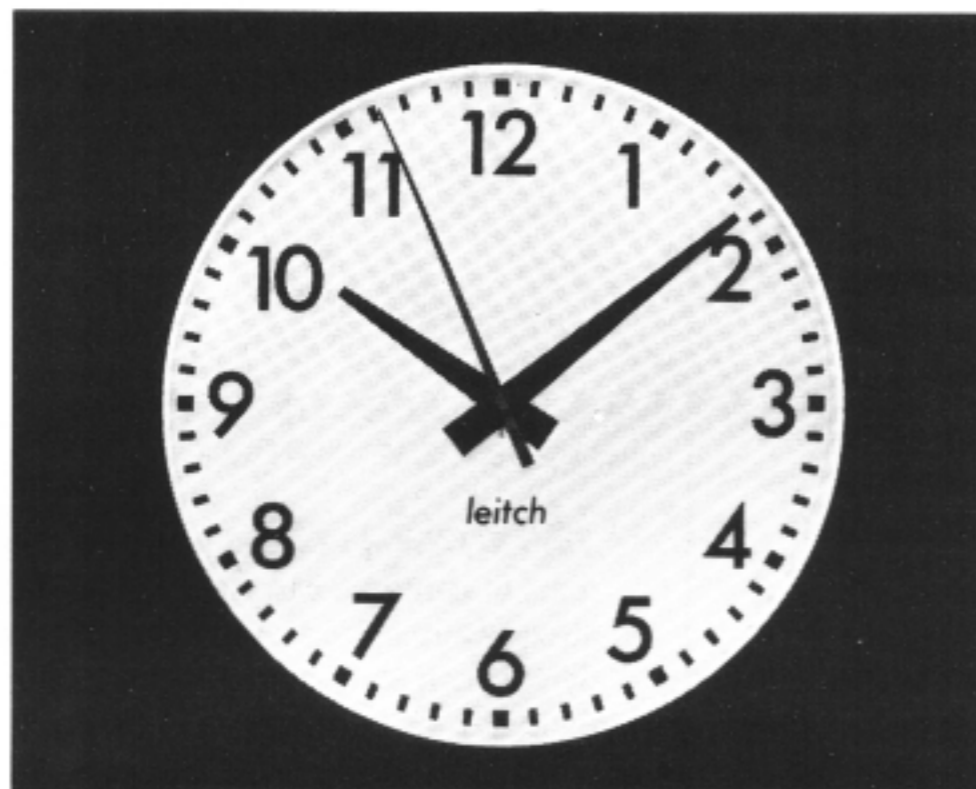
● **Radio Nord Inc.**, for two stations in northwestern Quebec: Rouyn-Noranda, 51 kw on 96.5 MHz, with a rebroadcaster at Lithium Mines, 52 kw on 97.3. The stations will provide Radio Canada AM network service to the area until the CBC establishes its own stations “in the not too distant future”.

The applications of Radio Rogers Limited, for Gravenhurst, Ont., and Claude Pepin (Radio Lanaudiere Inc.), for Joliette, Que., were denied.

CBC rebroadcasters were approved for:

| City                                 | MHz   | ERP     |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Brockville, Ont.                     | 100.3 | 100,000 |
| Brockville                           | 102.1 | 3,000   |
| Cobourg (frequency to be determined) |       |         |
| Orillia                              | 105.9 | 8,640   |
| Penetang                             | 96.5  | 15,300  |
| Penetang                             | 107.5 | 15,300  |
| Peterborough                         | 106.3 | 31,000  |
| Alert Bay, B.C.                      | 105.1 | 77      |
| Hope, B.C.                           | 101.7 | 136     |
| Woss, B.C.                           | 92.9  | 125     |
| Canmore, Alta.                       | 97.9  | 70      |
| Pincher Creek, Alta.                 | 97.5  | 44      |
| Exshaw, Alta.                        | 100.7 | 138     |
| Stanley Mission, Sask                | 95.5  | 216     |
| Pinehouse Lake                       | 94.1  | 86      |

# It's the right time to try the new Leitch Precision Impulse Clock.



The Leitch Precision Impulse Clock has been developed by the craftsmen at Leitch Broadcast Products Limited to provide accurate time for broadcasters who demand precision time control with cool illumination. It will not upset the carefully controlled lighting of control room equipment.

Each clock is equipped with Leitch's "Videglo" self illumination system that brightens the clock face without spilling over light into the control room.

Silent operation, compatibility with existing impulse master clock systems, Canadian servicing and clean, attractive lines are just a few of the reasons for switching to Leitch.

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A rebroadcaster was also licensed to the Lytton and District TV Association for 4.8 watts on 106.1 MHz.

#### Other FM decisions:

- CING-FM Montreal will move to 102.3 MHz, 36 watts.
- CING-FM Burlington, Ont., change of tower site, increased height, approved.
- CHIQ-FM Winnipeg, power increase to 100 kw with change of antenna site approved, along with new programming.
- CKCU-FM Ottawa (Carleton University Student's Assoc.) power increase to 12 kw with change of antenna site, increased height—approval pending decision as to

whether a public hearing is required.

- CFDM-FM Drummondville, Que., given 6-months renewal pending purchase by CBC.

#### SCMO

In granting approval to the CBC for the use of SCMO, the Commission states that "more meaningful" uses will likely be required in the future.

With the shortage of frequencies and increased demands, SCMO must be considered for specialized services which are relevant to the public, the CRTC indicates.

Temporary authorization was granted for use of SCMO to provide an emergency AM

program feed to three Quebec stations, CBF, CBV and CBJ. In a separate decision, SCMO was approved to transmit programming from CBL Toronto to the FM station licensed at Orillia, Ont., via CBL-FM.

#### New Call Letters

Keeping up with the new call signs? CJAT-FM is now CBTA-FM Trail, B.C., CJOB-FM is now CHMM Winnipeg, CHAM is now CJJD Hamilton and CHRC-FM is now CHOI Quebec City.

#### Television

● An application by Cambrian Broadcasting (CKSO-TV Sudbury) to establish a studio at Timmins, Ont., with separate programming part-time over rebroadcasters at Timmins, Kearns and Kapuskasing, has been denied. The CRTC ruled that the proposed programming was not significant enough to justify separate commercial activity in these areas by Cambrian.

- CBC-TV rebroadcasters have been licensed for:

Cardston, Alta.—5 watts  
Stanley Mission, Sask.—333 watts  
Driftwood, Ont.—10 watts  
Belleoram, Nfld.—5 watts  
Harbour Breton, Nfld.—5 watts

- Other rebroadcasters have been approved for Gribbell Island, CFS Holberg and 16 Mile, B.C., and Peters River, Nfld.

- In renewing the licence of CHEX-TV Peterborough, Ont., the Commission commended the station for acquiring new color ENG equipment to meet a schedule of over nine hours weekly of local news coverage.

- Power increases have been granted for CKYA-TV Arborg, Man., to 31 kw (video) with a change of transmitter site to Fisher Branch; and for CKBI-TV-2 North Battleford, Sask., to 24 kw.

#### Cable Television

#### CRTC BACKS OFF BAN ON U.S. FM SIGNALS

The CRTC has decided to permit cable systems to continue carrying U.S. FM stations already authorized. And systems ordered to delete such stations may apply to reinstate them.

Meanwhile, the CRTC has set December 1, 1976, as the deadline for further comment on the carriage of U.S. FM stations by cable systems in Canada.

In keeping with a policy statement issued July 19, 1976, the Commission had been ordering cable systems to delete U.S. FM signals. (See article *FM Signals on Cable TV*, page 47, September/October issue.) This was taking effect gradually, when each cable company had its licence renewed.

Reaction from cable subscribers—it's

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reported that over 1,000 complaints were received—has forced the CRTC to reconsider and in an announcement dated September 23, the Commission said it would re-open the matter.

The Commission's position is that it has recently licensed 25 new commercial FM stations and required some 70 existing commercial FM stations to change their programming to meet the new FM Policy.

Dropping U.S. FM signals on cable TV was designed "to create the most beneficial environment" for the development of Canadian FM. The CRTC still considers that a priority, and, in effect, is challenging the industry and/or the public to suggest solutions.

Comment is particularly invited on the following issues:

1. The effect of allowing U.S. stations, which do not have to meet the same licensing requirement, to be carried indiscriminately on cable—especially when Canadian stations are introducing new formats.
2. The economic impact of U.S. stations selling time in Canada.
3. The effect of U.S. non-commercial stations on the development of such stations here.
4. The assignment of more favorable distribution channels on cable for Canadian FM stations.

Comments, to be received by December 1, should be addressed to Mr. Guy Lefebvre, Secretary General, CRTC, 100 Metcalfe St., Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0N2.

## SYSTEMS LICENSED

New cable systems have been approved for the following communities:

### Brandon, Man.

Grand Valley Cablevision Ltd. Competing applications by J. W. Potter and Winnipeg Videon Ltd. were denied. Carriage of CKND-TV Winnipeg was authorized by off-air pickup only (microwave requested).

### Selkirk/Portage La Prairie, Man.

Winnipeg Videon. Applications by J. R. Whall (Selkirk) and Portage Community Cablevision Ltd. were denied.

The new Manitoba licensees are to participate in the distant head-end at Tolstoi, Man., and are to report by March 31, 1977, on progress towards facilities for deletion of commercials on U.S. signals.

### Brooks and Vauxhall, Alta.

K. M. Greentree, on behalf of a company to be incorporated which will distribute 35% of its shares to local residents.

### Camrose and Wetaskawin, Alta.

Morgan Anderson, representing a company to be incorporated.

The Alberta licensees are to participate in the distant head-end at Mount Kelly, B.C., and the Alberta regional microwave network.

Applications by Brooks Cablevision, G. Kushner (Brooks), and Mid-Alta Cable (Camrose, Wetaskawin) were denied.

### Gentilly, Que.

Aubert Poisson (approved in principle, pending filing of necessary documentation with DOC). A competing application by Decibel Inc. was denied.

### Kingsey Falls, Que.

Cablovision Warwick Inc.

### LaSarre, Que.

Cablevision du Nord de Quebec, Inc.

## NEW FACILITIES

• Extensions of service area have been approved for the following systems in the province of Quebec:

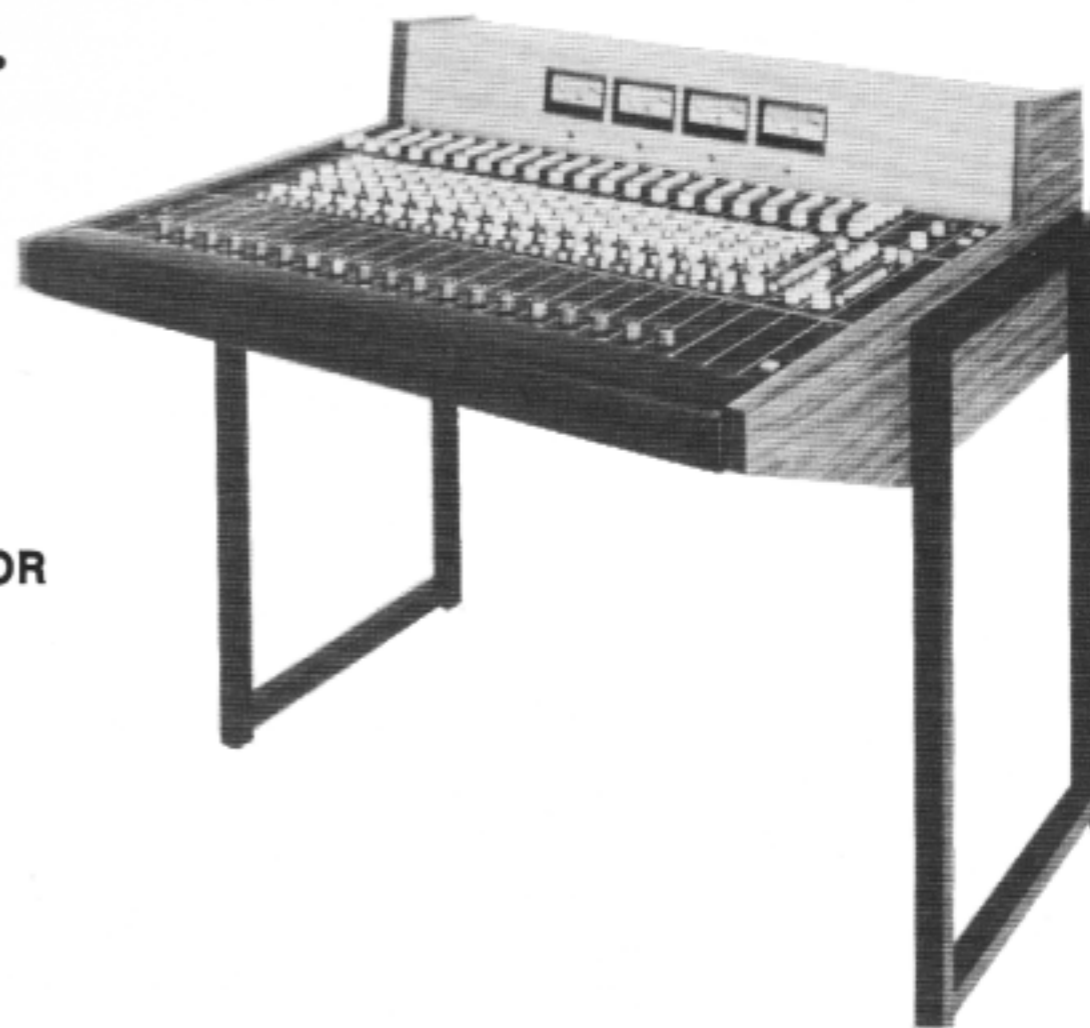
Laurentian Cablevision, Aylmer; Riviere-du-Loup Cable TV; Chouinard Television, La Pocatiere; National Cablevision, Victoriaville; Tele-Cable Charlevoix, Clermont; Telecable des Mille-Iles, Terrebonne.

• Head-end installations have been approved for Chatham (Ont.) Cable TV; Community Video of Rossland-Trail and Montrose-Fruitvale, B.C.; Cablevision Lethbridge; Cable Service Ltd., Moncton, N.B.; and Metrovision Ltd., Bedford, N.S. →



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- CESM-TV Ltd. of Thompson, Manitoba, has been permitted to establish a recording site at Winnipeg to receive and videotape signals from CKND-TV and three U.S. stations. CESM-TV must make the necessary contractual arrangements to provide the service. The cable system is to make "significant improvements to the technical quality of its service", and is to continue wiring unserved areas. The licensee was also instructed to "actively create programming" for the community channel, as well as provide access to local groups. Local advertising was permitted on a limited, temporary basis.

- In renewing the licence of Kenora (Ont.) Cable Vision, the CRTC called for immediate steps to import distant signals by microwave to overcome poor reception problems.

## QUEBEC MICROWAVE NETWORK LICENSED

National Cablevision Ltd. has been licensed to establish a cable television microwave network, with head-ends at Mont-Bruno, Ste-Sophie, St-Medard and Grosses Riches, Quebec.

To be known as Microbec, Inc., it will relay the signals of CFCF-TV Montreal and one or two Burlington, Vermont, stations to cable systems in ten cities, including Quebec, Levis, the Lac St-Jean area, Baie-Comeau and Sept-Iles. The licence requires that the licensee be prepared to delete commercials from U.S. signals.

## DELETION FACILITIES

In renewing the licences of various systems, the CRTC has called for progress reports on facilities for the deletion of U.S. commercials: Winnipeg—October 31, 1976; Hamilton (Ont.) Co-axial, Keeble Cable, Mississauga, Ont., Barrie (Ont.) Cable TV and Classic Communications, Richmond Hill, Ont.—March 31, 1977; Laurentian Cablevision and Video-tron Ltee, serving the Hull, Que., area—April 1, 1977.

## APPLICATIONS CALLED

The CRTC has called for cable applications to serve the Hauterive, Quebec area. Deadline is December 17, 1976.

## ALLOCATION ALTERED

Cable systems in the Greater Victoria, B.C., area have been authorized to carry CBUFT, the CBC French station operating on channel 26 in Vancouver, on channel 3. The Commission had previously designated channel 4 as the distribution channel.