

## stations in the news

### Five Groups Bid For Ottawa TV Licence

Five groups have entered the latest competition for a licence to operate an independent English-language television station in Ottawa.

In the first round of what has become an enthralling battle to provide a third English-language TV station to the market, Toronto's Baton Broadcasting was named the winner in March 1987. But Baton returned the licence after it bought CJOH-TV, a CTV network affiliate. Three of the four applicants who lost out to Baton in that round are back to try again.

First to file its application was a group of investors, under the name of Metro TV, headed by communications consultant Ted Billo, one of the original applicants. They have been followed by Toronto-based CHUM Ltd. and Sudbury-based Mid-Canada Communications, both among the original applicants, and CanWest Broadcasting and a numbered company. Details about who is behind the latter aren't expected to be known until April, when the applications will be gazetted.

The fourth applicant from the first round, the Blackburn Group of London, Ont., decided against trying again, buying Hamilton's independent CHCH-TV for \$68.5-million, pending CRTC approval.

### Telemedia Bids Again For London Stations

Telemedia Inc. is taking another run at acquiring two London, Ont., radio stations.

Telemedia Communications Ontario Inc., a unit of Telemedia, has signed a letter of agreement to purchase radio stations CKSL and CIQM-FM London from privately-held London Broadcasters Ltd. Purchase price and terms were not disclosed. It is Telemedia's second attempt to buy the stations.

Last year Telemedia offered a reported \$7-million for the stations owned by the Jeffery and Regan families. That bid was rejected by the CRTC, which found fault with the monetary benefits Telemedia Ontario had promised.

### Montreal Licence Ban Sought

The head of Montreal's Tele-Metropole Inc. has suggested that no new broadcast licences be issued for

what he sees as a desperately fragmented market.

Serge Gouin, Tele-Metropole's president, told a recent meeting of shareholders that he hopes the CRTC will hold off for a while on the approval of a new channel and station applications, to make time for the players in a

'highly disturbed industry' to adjust and establish a more solid footing.

Tele-Metropole has been scrambling to shore up its share of the Quebec market, particularly since the arrival of the Quatre-Saisons television network added to the fight for advertisers' dollars. Last year the company put

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into place a rigorous cost-cutting plan, reorganized management and laid off 84 employees, almost 10 per cent of its work force.

And poised to enter the market in September is a French-language all-sports channel on cable co-owned by Montreal-based Telemedia Inc., and The Sports Network.

Gouin described as "the height of folly" a proposal before the CRTC for a French-language all-news station to be

run by Radio-Canada. He said the French-language networks already produce more than enough news and public affairs programming for what he described as a tiny market of only six million people.

### Appeal Goes Ahead

A satellite TV station in Nipawin, Sask., has been given leave by the Supreme Court of Canada to challenge

federal authority to regulate non-profit stations.

Nipawin and District Satellite TV Inc. is appealing a lower court ruling that it is regulated by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission.

The station began 10 years ago when residents, fed up with weak signals from a network station, set up a satellite receiver for Home Box Office and an Atlanta TV station. The equipment was seized by the CRTC after a cable company complained it couldn't get subscribers in Nipawin. The CRTC charged the non-profit company with running an unlicensed "broadcast undertaking".

### FM Applications Sought

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission has called for applications for FM stations in two areas.

Deadline for applications for an FM station to serve Thunder Bay, Nipigon and Red Rock, Ont., is March 17.

Deadline for applications for an FM station to serve Trois-Rivieres, Que. is March 31.

The CRTC has also announced it will consider an application to transfer effective control of Tantramar Broadcasting Ltd., operators of CKDH Amherst, N.S., to Maclean Hunter Ltd.'s Maritime Broadcasting Co. Ltd. No purchase price was given.

### Mountain FM Sale Approved

The CRTC has approved the sale of B.C.'s Mountain FM Radio Ltd. to Selkirk Communications Ltd. for \$1.3 million.

Mountain FM holds the broadcast licences for CISQ-FM Squamish and its rebroadcasters CISW-FM Whistler, CISP-FM Pemberton, CISC-FM Gibsons, CISN-FM Sechelt, CIPN-FM Pender Harbour, and CIEG-FM Egmont.

Selkirk has subsequently been sold to Maclean Hunter Ltd., who in turn sold most of the radio properties to Rogers Broadcasting Ltd., including the bid for Mountain FM. All are subject to CRTC approval.

### CRTC Decisions

\* Radio Station CHER Sydney has been given a new lease on life following approval of an application giving Dr. Stewart Marsh (60 per cent) and his wife, Florence Marsh (40 per cent),

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ownership of the station. The station has a new manager and staff and, under the new ownership, plans to spend \$45,000 for improvements to its control room and production room over five years.

\* The CBC was given approval for new FM stations at:

Thunder Bay (88.3 MHz, channel 202B, with 23,700 watts) to rebroadcast programs of the English-language AM radio network and some local programming, replacing CBQ-AM (800 kHz); Elliot Lake, Ont. (90.3 MHz, channel 212A, with 100 watts) to rebroadcast English-language AM radio network programs origination from CBCS-FM Sudbury; Salmon Arm (96.9 MHz, channel 245, with 76 watts) and Winlaw (91.7 MHz, channel 219, with 100 watts), both B.C., to rebroadcast English-language AM network programs originating from CBU Vancouver.

\* An application for a French-language FM station serving Riviere-du-Gouffre, Que., with 15 watts at 92.3 MHz, to rebroadcast CIHO-FM Saint-Hilarion was approved.

\* Also approved were applications for B.C. FM undertakings at Gold River (100.1 MHz, channel 261, 50 watts) to rebroadcast CFWB Campbell River; at Port Alice (100.3 MHz, channel 262, 20 watts) to rebroadcast CFNI Port Hardy; at Tumbler Ridge (92.7 MHz, channel 223, 95 watts) to rebroadcast CJDC Dawson Creek; at Magna Bay (94.7 MHz, channel 234, 6.3 watts) to rebroadcast CILK-FM Kelowna; and at Atlin (99.9 MHz, channel 260, 10 watts) to rebroadcast CFMI-FM Vancouver received via satellite.

\* Community radio station CIBL-MF Montreal was authorized to change its frequency to 104.7 MHz (channel 284A) from 104.5 MHz (channel 283 LP) and increase its power to 315 watts from 10 and relocate its tower to the mast of the Olympic Stadium from the west tower of the Olympic Village. The changes will allow the station to reach all the municipalities on the Island of Montreal and serve the City of Montreal.

\* An application by Radio CFIN Inc. for a French-language FM station at Coaticook, Que. at 104.5 MHz, channel 283A, with 450 watts, was denied. The commission said it remained unconvinced that the proposed station could achieve either its projected revenue or meet its programming commitments.

—BT

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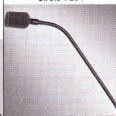
### Pop filter kit

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- afford an opportunity (allow, permit);
- in the not too distant future (soon).

\* \* \*

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\* \* \*

Available now (particularly for FM'ers) from Broadcast News is the **Dick Smyth** feature commentary *Here's How Things Look To Dick Smyth*. Dick has doubled his output -- from five 60-second commentaries per week to ten -- while also tacking on an additional 30-seconds for the five new features.

That means that five Smyth commentaries are 60-seconds in length and five are 90-seconds. FM stations may want to take note since these 90-seconders qualify as double mosaics.

For more information, contact me (**Howard Christensen**) at (416) 364-3172 in Toronto or **Jerry Fairbridge** at (204) 428-6490 in Edmonton.

\* \* \*

With the huge number of professional people and executives refusing transfers to Toronto because of that city's horrendous housing problem -- both cost and availability -- it's no wonder Toronto broadcasters are experiencing more talent-raiding and job-changing within the city than ever. Toronto has seen a huge number of people going "across the street."

High housing costs and an apartment vacancy rate pegged at .02 per cent aren't being balanced by salaries offered. Hence, many talented broadcasters in other markets -- particularly the more established and desired people -- are taking a pass on Canada's big apple and staying where they are.

\* \* \*

A new title and greater responsibilities for BN's **Rina Steuerman**. She's now manager, Satellite Sales. Also at BN's Toronto head office, **Steve Crombie** is in as national audio supervisor. He had been a reporter/editor at BN's Vancouver bureau and, prior to that, a newsmen for WIN and Selkirk in B.C. And joining BN as a reporter/editor in Toronto is **Deneen Grant**, also ex of Vancouver. **Kirk Dickson**, ex of BN Toronto, is now weekendend at CKKW/CFCA-FM Kitchener ...



W1310 Ottawa has **Geoff Franklin** in as afternoon driver. Geoff moved to Ottawa from his morning stand at Winnipeg's Q-94FM ... It was good to hear from CKLW Windsor's chief money lady **Agnes Kerekes**. She's got a sweet little deal (a vacant condo owned by friends in Windsor) on Margarita Island off the coast of Venezuela that draws her south a couple of times a year ... **Art Noiles** has moved from Maritime Broadcasting's CJCW Sussex into the GM's job at K100 Saint John. Into the Sussex operation is **Gary Crowell**. Based at CHNS Halifax, Maritime Broadcasting's secretary-treasurer **Bruce Irving** -- after ten years at CKCW Moncton -- says he's enjoying the Nova Scotia capital city, especially the lack of snow (compared to what Moncton usually gets). And still with Maritime Broadcasting, new VP programming for the group is **Pat St. John**, ex-GM at CKTY/CFGX-FM Sarnia. **Don Chamberlain**, pres. at CKTY/CFGX-FM, picked up some of Pat's old duties and former ND **John Divinski** got bumped to Ops. Mgr. New ND at CKTY is **Barry Wright** ... CFTR Toronto senior editorialist **Dick Smyth** just did a speech for Telemidia Ontario folk at their annual meeting, held this year in Sudbury ... Former CFRB Toronto ND **John McFadyen** is doing weekends for CHEF-FM Toronto ... **Al Zimmer**, also ex of CFRB, is at CFTR Toronto ... **Tom Otto** left TR for mornings at CKEY Toronto, replacing **Al Gibson** in that slot. Al is now BN's national ND ... **Rik Jaspersen**, the former CITY-TV Toronto news producer who had been hired by New Zealand TV, and then learned before he left Canada that his new job had been cancelled, has landed as producer of the evening package at CBC's CBUT-TV Vancouver ...

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CKVU-TV Vancouver's new promotion manager is **Barry Millar** ... Special thanks to CFOS/CIXK-FM Owen Sound GM **Ross Kentner** for giving me the opportunity to speak to Owen Sound Rotarians. It was a delightful experience ... Still with CFOS, ND **Kevin Bernard** has resigned -- after eight years at CFOS -- to pursue a new career ... CFRN Edmonton's new morningman is long-time Edmonton veteran **Wes Montgomery** ... The folks who work at CKCK Regina, CKRC Winnipeg and CKOC Hamilton may want to ask Armadale's **R.K. (Mac) Macdonald** why a certain butcher in Swan River, Man., mistook him for Slim Whitman (No, it has nothing to do with Mac's yodelling!) ...

A reader wrote *BT* asking what happened to Montreal DJs **Dean Hegobian** and **Ralph Lockwood**. CFCF-AM Montreal newsmen **Stew McIsaac** tells me Lockwood, after his stint at CKGM, went back to his home town of Hazelton, Penn., where he's doing a morning show. As for Hegobian, Dean is still in the Montreal market doing weekends at CJAD, some work at CJFM-FM and syndicating a weekly musicshow ... CKAT-FM North Bay morningman **Bob Wood** ran on the Liberal ticket in the federal election back in November. Wonder of wonders, he got himself elected. But that left station manager **Mary Stillar** driverless, so-o-o-o-o she got **Steve Kassay** to fill the void. Steve's last stop was as host of Seitech's *Night Country* show ...

Some guys have all the luck. Take **Peter May** for example. While he's on an extended leave in Fiji, vacationing and trying to write a book, his ND duties at CFGM 640 Toronto are being handled by Acting ND **John Elston** ... Speaking of leaves of absence, BN executive assistant **Michelle Poulin** took off for a two month look-see in Thailand ... And **John Donabie**, who probably holds the record for the number of Toronto stations worked for, has moved from CKFM to CKEY as mid-day announcer and assistant PD.

\* \* \*

CFRB Toronto's entertainment editor, **Jeremy Brown**, recently had a major stage and motion picture actor in the studio for a live, on-air interview. Jeremy, always one to be heavy on the compliments while maintaining his strict code of English language usage, opened the prime time conversation with -- what he intended to be -- an ice-breaking kindness.

CFRB GM **George Ferguson** says the actor was somewhat taken aback and Jeremy only realized what he'd said after he'd said it. Both men, says George, were so shaken that their faces drained to pure white.

Jeremy's opening line?

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## THE PHIL STONE REPORT

### Canadian Radio Networks Inc.

# An Interview With Chuck Camroux

All things being equal and with everything in place, then the Canadian Radio Networks Inc., the dream of Chuck Camroux and his associates, will have been launched by now into a successful future.

We met with Chuck, a leading figure in Canada's broadcast industry, particularly in the managerial sense, and asked him to explain CRN, the new networks' abbreviation.

"It has been an idea for several years," said Chuck. "Basically, my philosophy as a radio operator is that you don't make any money from six o'clock at night until six o'clock in the morning. At a radio station it's a cost thing. So the question becomes, how can you reduce the cost to the radio station without reducing the quality of the programming?"

"So I decided to look at networks and networking and ran into an immediate industry problem - Canada didn't have

what I considered high quality networking. That is by satellite. Everything was analog transmitted and the States got out of that. They got into digital quite a while ago. Digital is a perfect signal as opposed to an iffy signal. It's like the comparison in quality of a record to a compact disc."

***"You don't make any money from 6 o'clock at night until 6 o'clock in the morning."***

Chuck said that he waited around and kept looking at the networking situation. "And then," he said, "in the summer of 1988 Telesat Canada announced that they were allowing digital radio service on the satellite. So I contracted to do it and started the network. Simple as that, because of the high quality."

Chuck said that any 15 kHz services that "are out there now are analog and we're digital, so we have absolutely clean sound."

### Like A Radio Station

In copy promoting the network, one of the claims made is that it will provide "Contemporary adult programming at its best." We asked Chuck to explain.

"What that means," he said, "is that, in simple terms, we are an AC (Adult Contemporary) radio station from a format point of view. Not a hit station, and not a beautiful music station, we are someplace in between, but contemporary. We are in tune with life styles. So that's the format of the network."

We asked if the format would have inroads and exerts by the announcer.

"Oh," said Chuck, "we're live, live the whole time we're on the air, just like a radio station. You think of us as a radio station with a transmitter 36,000 kilometres above the equator. That's what we really are."

Insofar as inserts are concerned, Chuck said, it all depends on the time of the day a station has contracted for. "But," he said, "we provide for 10 minutes of commercial time all night and 12 minutes of commercial time

during the evening, per hour. We take half of the all night - that's five minutes an hour - and 3:30 minutes an hour the rest of the time. We sell that time ourselves and provide the CRN service free to the radio stations."

Chuck said there is room in the format for news.

"You can," he told us, "switch in and out of news. We provide tone generators to allow semi-automation that will take us off the air at the station and put, say, Broadcast News on the air. But since we also provide news they may want to take us."

### Demographic Spread

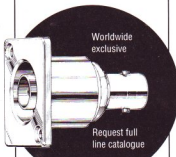
What about the demographic? CRN's promotional brochure talks of people over 25.

"The demographic we seek to reach," said Chuck, "is 25 to 50 basically, but I suppose it's really everybody. The reason we put that in the brochure, and talk about it, is because radio station managers are so demographically-gauged (that's how you get through their head space.) The fact of the matter is that the time of day that we are broadcasting to a radio station has such a wide spread of demographics -- it changes with nighttime radio. Young people and older people tend to listen to the same station because it is the only one that's any good, for whatever reason. But basically, musically and life-style-wise, we are aiming to the 25 to 50 year-old audience."

Chuck said that CRN has limited its service to one station per market and that, basically, he added, is the market a station is licensed in. "If a 50,000-watt station happens to cover two markets, because the second one is just outside the primary market, we'd negotiate that situation."

The music which CRN will supply to its clients is defined as extremely familiar selections from the 60s, 70s, and 80s, with a sprinkling of the classics from the 50s. "We will not," said Chuck, "repeat musical selection during our programming day, which is 15 hours long. In our studios we start at 6 p.m. (Eastern time) in the evening and go to 9 a.m. (Eastern time) in the morning in order to cover Canada's various time zones."

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The CRN studios are located in St. Catharines, Ontario. "The uplink initially," said Chuck, "is via Telesat's uplink in Toronto. We're building our own uplink in St. Catharines and that should be ready later this year. Meanwhile we're sending the signal from St. Catharines to Toronto on a digital telephone line."

Chuck pointed out that the CRN studios are just like a radio station, "except that they are super-state of the art. They're all digital audio tape and compact disc records and digital tape recorders. We also have to have analog tape records for now, for we have to send our material to those who do not have digital and CD equipment."

*"We were looking for people who were in their 20s to early 30s, because they have to relate to our audiences."*

As far as staff is concerned, Chuck said that those hired must have at least five years in broadcasting and must be working "in a reasonably major market -- a London, or a Victoria, or a Halifax, or larger. We were looking for people who were in their 20s to early 30s, because they have to relate to our audiences. They're going to be married, have young children, just bought a house, and all that. They'll be what I prefer to call musical hosts."

"Incidentally, we use operators as well -- we are not allowing our host to operate the boards. The reason for that is possible complications, because we're sending tones to stations and doing all that kind of thing, and the announcer's mind can't be a case of 'What do I do next?' We'll have an operator to handle that side of the transmission."

#### Localized Programs by Phone

We were curious about a line in CRN's promotional brochure that read "...we are able to talk to your listeners, talk about your weather, and your events."

"What that means," Chuck explained, "is that we wired Canada with 800 numbers so that in every market in Canada (except the Yukon and Northwest Territories, where they don't have 800 service) you can dial a local number and talk to our people. So if you're listening in Halifax or in

Corner Brook, Newfoundland, you just have to dial a local number, which is free to you. So we're able to take dedications and requests and say "How's it going there?" and that sort of thing."

Does that mean that the stations subscribing to CRN get local IDs?

"Yes," said Chuck. "We provide them made by our disc jockeys. Let us take Sydney, Nova Scotia, for instance. We'd be sending IDs to them. For example, 'CJCB Sydney -- Cape Breton's

Number One radio station." Those go on a cartridge and we fire them from our studio with a special tone so we know when they're going and thus make sure the same voice is doing them so that they sound local at that end. The host on-air waits five or six seconds after the ID is aired so that it is the same voice the listeners hear when he starts talking."

We asked Chuck if there was someone doing exactly what CRN is doing in Canada.

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"There isn't anyone doing exactly or precisely what we are doing," he said. "But there are currently four services in Canada. Two of them are in British Columbia, both primarily rebroadcasters to the B.C. area. There is the SRN Network which is owned by CKWX and CKKS-FM in Vancouver, and they service a bunch of stations in B.C. Then there is the WIN Network, which is CKNW and they are just rebroadcasting that station.

"But it doesn't really mean we are totally unique. There are two services in Toronto -- there is *Night Channel*, which is owned by Selkirk through Seltec and it is only all nights, and there is *Coast-to-Coast*, which is owned by Telemedia and it is also only all night.

"Y'know," Chuck said, "Telemedia is a sports network and not a music network, and Seltec is just going on the all-night period. And they don't do all the things we do like the localization, the 800 telephone circuits.

"They're saying, 'If you want something to put on your radio, we'll give it to you.' We're saying, 'If you want a real radio station, we'll give it to you.' So I guess when you think about it, we are unique."

Chuck said that locating in St. Catharines didn't really have any particular significance. "It doesn't matter where we are because we shoot up to satellite. We have to be close to Toronto because we have to sell to the national advertisers. And I also wanted to be close to Niagara Falls, where I live. Thus St. Catharines answers both needs."

**"A big part of our services is sales promotions. I feel very strongly that radio has been massively undersold at night."**

Chuck said that in addition to the music feeds and the musical hosts, "a big part of our service is sales promotions. I feel very strongly that radio has been massively undersold at night.

"In fact," Chuck said, "I think that radio is undersold all the time. But at night it really is undersold because nobody understands it or cares about it.

"The local salesman gets up in the morning, hears the radio station he works at, works all day hearing it and then comes home and watches television. Tomorrow when he goes out to sell, he never thinks about selling nighttime radio, he sells what he himself is used to dealing with.

"And yet there are thousands upon thousands of people listening during the evening.

"So our attitude is that not only are we providing a service, but we are going to help that night-time radio because we are going to show our subscribers how to sell it. We are going to provide at least ten sales promotions per market per year.

"And we think that's an extremely important bonus to stations. It's absolutely free -- just part of the service."

It is fitting that Chuck, with a history in broadcasting that covers more than 33 years, should be president of Canadian Radio Networks, which rated a double column story in the *Globe and Mail's Report on Business* before it even began operation.

Chuck told the newspaper that Canadian Radio Networks Inc., "which barbers its programming to stations across Canada in return for commercial time that it will sell, has an equity of about \$1-million. Some 80 per cent of that sum has come from a group of venture capitalists and institutional investors operating through a new company titled CS Media Inc."

Making a few guesses, Chuck estimated that startup costs would run about \$350,000 and annual operating costs could reach \$550,000 to \$600,000. Then CRTC chairman Andre Bureau, quoted in *Report on Business*, said that, together with syndicated programming, a service like the Canadian Radio Networks is a way for local stations -- particularly hard-hit AM outlets -- to offer what he termed "high-quality programming at an affordable cost."

That, in essence, is what Chuck had in mind.

"Canadian Radio Networks," he said, "is a service that broadcasters have been asking for, for some time. We are very proud to be the only full-time dedicated network in Canada."

*Phil Stone is a well-known broadcaster, writer and educator whose Phil Stone Report and Broadcast Beat are regular features of Broadcast Technology. Phil can be reached at 2350 Bridletowne Circle, #1601, Scarborough, ON, M1W 3E6, phone (416) 492-8115.*



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# CHCH-TV Breaks New Ground With Mini-Computer-Based Newsroom System

by Keith E. Risler

In a business where talk of computers invokes visions of limited-function, standalone systems used for text handling or managing traffic, CHCH-TV in Hamilton, Ontario has broken new ground with its recently installed integrated Columbine newsroom computer system.

As Vice-President of Information Systems, Bob Lennon's choice of a mini-computer-based integrated newsroom system is driven by a commitment to cost-effective functionality in which gains are a function of reduced duplication, broad data sharing, and the enhanced quality of the news it helps produce.

"Most broadcasters in Canada don't have data operations of any kind," says Lennon. That tendency to stick with standalone systems that generally don't share data is compounded by broadcasters' limited perspective on what constitutes an ideal newsroom computer, adds Lennon.

"If you talk about a computer, the computer means traffic, period. And then you have other places where people have bought a bunch of standalone systems. You might have a system for traffic and another one for accounting, and another one for films, another one in the newsroom, and then dozens of PCs, in some cases, none of which talk to anyone else.

"That approach we have been fundamentally against from the beginning. Not because it isn't functional today in terms of solving a specific problem, but because in terms of the potential, in terms of where you're heading to, it's a dead-end investment."

## Two Levels Of Integration

Integration in this context involves two levels of connectivity for CHCH-TV.

First, the Columbine newsroom system is actually a software package that will run on the station's IBM System 38 minicomputer. Columbine-generated data can be shared with accounting and management programs already running on the System 38. This makes for company-wide data sharing. In practice, though, Columbine will be installed on a brand-new IBM AS/400 minicomputer (IBM's software-compatible successor to the

38), with the System 38 serving as the backup in case of main system failure.

The AS/400 variant purchased by CHCH-TV is about one-fifth the size of the System 38, but packs equal power at less cost. It boasts 900 megabytes of storage, 16 megabytes of Random Access Memory (RAM), and will initially support 25-30 terminals. The system box occupies a one half-height rack of the type used to mount broadcast equipment at an initial cost, with hardware, of about \$250,000. But Lennon stresses costs to other stations will depend on many factors, determined by options and equipment chosen.

The second level of connectivity relates to newsroom functions. As CHCH-TV's Vice-President of News and Public Affairs, John Best illuminates this less obvious facet of Columbine: "I think it's fair to say that newsroom computer systems were developed before most news directors had a clue what they wanted. In other words, the people who manufacture computers, to some degree, got out in front of the industry in my view."

Best had a look at an early newsroom system about five years ago, and recalls "a computer system that seemed to be largely geared towards radio applications. It seemed at that stage that there was much emphasis on the capturing and retention and sorting of wire copy, but I didn't see it addressing

what I would most need in a TV newsroom."

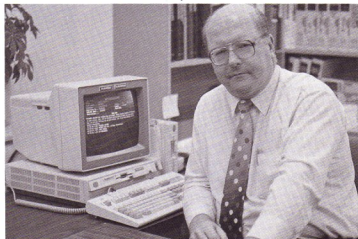
Best says these additional functions must address other key areas. The first is an assignment function, which involves story assignments and tracking upcoming news events. Equally important in a TV newsroom is a system to automate broadcast lineups -- the critically important and highly complex timetable of a news program's stories, their sequence, and length.

"That function," says Best, "enables a producer in a very clean and quiet way to keep track of his story order and it also allows him to keep track of the length."

The lineup function works in real-time, allowing the producer to juggle story run times as the show goes live to air. Producers may cut stories, or add others, and have the lineup times automatically adjusted with each change, addition or deletion.

Finally, Best says, a system should have an archiving capability for cataloguing stories after they've aired, tracking cover footage for later use, and tape management. CHCH-TV already used Columbine's archive system, which was to be incorporated seamlessly into the full system as it was brought online.

Columbine meets all these requirements and more.



Bob Lennon, CHCH-TV's vice-president information systems, demonstrates the Columbine archive function. When installed the full system will run on a single IBM AS/400 computer and some 25-30 terminals.

### Some Surprises

Columbine offers a broad list of functions which share data in some surprising ways.

Briefly, the official discreet functions in the CHCH-TV system are (in alphabetical order):

- Archiving;
- Assignment Desk;
- Captioning Interface;
- Lineup;
- Personnel and Equipment;
- Scripting;
- TelePrompTer; and
- Wire Service.

Lennon and his staff worked closely with Columbine to tweak the system and customize functions where additional features are desired or prove necessary.

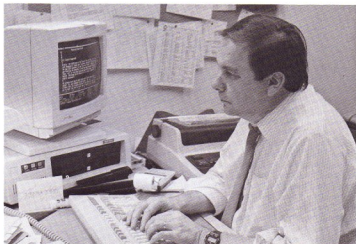
Best's integrated newsroom permits a news anchor's script to be sent to an electronic TelePrompTer without retyping, online revision of the anchor's script in the broadcast lineup during a broadcast, and filing of the script in the archives. Contrasted with the pre-Columbine method of typing hard copy for a traditional TelePrompTer, and isolated scripting, lineup and captioning, it's obvious that the new system reduces duplicated effort and dramatically improves productivity. As Best concludes: "It just seemed for us that the Columbine system would offer more functional capabilities than the others."

Best feels other systems, though they are excellent systems in themselves, are still over-focused on wire copy handling.

### Archiving Key To Decision

CHCH-TV found Columbine to be cost effective because of its already-installed IBM System 38, but its familiarity with Columbine's archive program was also a factor. The station has been using that part of the package for more than two years.

"We had the benefit of going into it having a machine on which we could put archives. We know how well that part of the system was designed, how effective it is," says Lennon. "The other systems handle archives. They don't handle archives the way Columbine handles archives. The capability of being able to search and bring things up immediately is tremendous. So we had a certain disposition, and in any of



*John Best, CHCH-TV's vice-president of news and public affairs, works on a terminal linked to the station's Columbine system, which has replaced many of the station's standalone PCs.*

the discussions that we had with other suppliers, that was up front."

The archiving function provides some excellent examples of what "integration" means in the context of Columbine.

Lennon recounts the old way of doing year end news reviews: "Every big station does a year-ender where they say 'What are the big stories of the year?' That used to be a big task. The news director did it himself, and he had to go out and think back to what the big stories were. He'd go to the assignment book and scan down and say 'Yes, here's this murder trial, and how many times did that murder trial come up and what were the affected dates?' Then he had to go and find the footage through an index card system. It was a very time-consuming task."

But Columbine has changed all that: "The first year we had the system he was able to just go and do it in a totally different way. He got a listing of everything he wanted; it was incredible how fast he was able to pull out things and literally edit that script on paper."

Lennon explains that a producer can tell the system what he needs in terms of footage, examine shot lists for all stories relevant to a story or documentary production, select footage based on time factors, locations, or other specific search keys, and then assemble the item on paper, with complete shot lists, times, and library tape locations.

"You still have to go and look at the footage," cautions Lennon, "but the job is greatly simplified."

The full Columbine system enables even greater efficiencies. Conventional

TelePrompTer scripts consist of specially typed sheets fed before the TelePrompTer's video camera using a tractor-feed device. The camera then projects the anchor's script for reading on-air. This changes under Columbine to enable electronic script transmission to the TelePrompTer setup. And because the TelePrompTer text is linked directly to the Lineup function, changes in the script as written in the Lineup automatically change on the TelePrompTer.

And since text-based closed captioning (for hearing-impaired viewers) will eventually be used at CHCH-TV, the full text of all stories will be stored along with the original story intros and extros. In the past, says Lennon, "you had to go and find the video to find what was said. But now the information will already be in there [in the electronic archive]. So if you want to know what the script was, you just go to it electronically and look at the whole thing."

There are plenty of nice touches in Columbine.

One turns up in the Personnel and Equipment function, which is capable of automatically assigning cameras and other field gear as personnel are assigned to a story. Send out a cameraman on the personnel side, and the equipment management side of the program locates whatever camera and gear usually go with the cameraman.

Eventually, says Lennon, the system will permit automated equipment reliability analysis, tracking down time and repair costs as a function of each equipment item.

### Increases Efficiency

As for the real cost of Columbine, both Lennon and Best concede it is more expensive than the competition — if built from scratch. But both say Columbine's acquisition wasn't predicated on saving money, but in enhancing the capabilities of the newsroom and increasing its long-term efficiency. With its already-installed IBM equipment though, Columbine was less costly for CHCH-TV than other options.

"You just can't say 'I'm going to save so much money on paper and typewriter ribbons that this is going to pay for the system', because that's not true," cautions Lennon. "There are savings, but you do have costs.

"The benefit and the payback will come in the longer term because of the efficiencies, the things that you can do with the same number of people. You'll be able to do more," concludes Lennon.

Best concurs with Lennon on the issue of cost justification: "It's hard to make an economic case for computers in a pure sense of 'here's how jobs can be cut.' That was the standard impression of computers for the last 30 years. The reality is that has not happened. What has happened is that you're simply able to operate at a higher level of efficiency.

"You can start catching things that reporters are writing, and therefore you improve your efficiency. You improve quality and you improve effectiveness. You're not going to find it in trading jobs for hardware."

It is in the potential for future gains that Columbine is justified, says Best: "Where you're going to find it is in an overall better product which is more valuable because we have these in-



Actual screen image of the Columbine archive function. The screen displays "shot list" for a story in archives of CHCH-TV. — Photos by Keith Risler

creased efficiencies. I want my newsroom to be better, not necessarily smaller."

As a veteran TV producer with some 30 years in the business, Bob Lennon is not a typical computer systems manager. Lennon considers himself a broadcaster first and a technology manager second.

Lennon emphasizes his concern with integrated systems is a function of matching computers as closely as possible to the station's way of doing business: "We've talked about being able to do the job better than we could manually. We've talked about the management information that will become available by the proper use of this system. These are the paybacks, these are the things that are important."

But the emphasis is on people, and how computers can help them work more efficiently with enhanced creativity.

As John Best says, "That's what computers do so well. If computers do anything they should free up your time to think a little more and be creative. We are in a creative business. What we are attempting to do is put the tools in our people's hands so that we can get more out of their creativity."

*Keith Risler is a freelance writer/photographer based in London, Ont. He can be contacted at 80 Adelaide Street South, London, NSZ 3K5, phone (519) 439-5413.*



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## TV Viewing Declines As Use Of Cable And VCRs Increases

Canadians spent slightly less time watching television last fall than they did the year previously, according to the BBM Bureau of Measurement's fall survey of Canadian television markets. Average weekly viewing slipped from 23.5 hours to 23.3 hours per week for all those aged two years and older.

The survey also found that VCR usage is increasing, specialty services are gaining audience, and the gap between top-ranked stations and their closest competitors in several major markets is closing.

VCR penetration reached new heights nationally, according to the fall survey, with 58% of Canadians having VCRs in their homes compared to 51% a year earlier. VCRs accounted for 3.3% of total hours turned to TV nationally.

Cable penetration is also on the rise, with 71% of Canadians subscribing to cable compared to 69% in 1987, according to the data collected last fall.

### A Look At Major Markets

Audience shares for stations in some major markets:

**Toronto:** In Canada's largest TV market, CFTO-TV, Global Television and CBLT are still the top three stations with shares of 15, 13 and 12 respectively. But all lost audience to independents CITY-TV (a 9 share) and CHCH-TV Hamilton (a 7 share) and to specialty channels.

**Montreal:** CFTM remained on top with a 24 share, ahead of CBFT and Quatre Saisons affiliate CFJP, with shares of 20 and 11 respectively. CFCF-TV was the top-rated English station with an 11 share of overall viewing.

**Vancouver:** Market leader CHAN-TV gained over its 1987 fall share for a 19 share as did CKVU-TV, which moved into second spot slightly ahead of CBUT, although both had a 14 share.

**Calgary:** CFAC-TV improved its ratings enough to move ahead of CFCN-TV, which saw its ratings slip, 28 to 25. Also slipping was CBRT, which ended with a 13 share.

**Edmonton:** TV viewing was down in Edmonton with both leading CFRN-TV, with a 26 share, and second-place CITY, with a 22, each dropping a share point. CBXT's third-place ranking and 17 share was unchanged.

**Winnipeg:** The big news in Winnipeg was the huge losses recorded by CKY-TV, which dropped five points to a 21 share and into a tie with CBWT, which had a slight audience gain. CKND-TV's audience grew slightly as it recorded a 19 share.

**Halifax:** CJCH-TV continued to dominate the ratings with a 34 share to CBHT's 19, although both saw their audiences drop one and two points respectively.

### A LOOK AT MORE RADIO-TV AUDIENCE STATISTICS

According to the Canadian Media Directors' Council *Media Digest* there are 698 radio stations in Canada - 422 AM and 276 FM. They reach 94 per cent of all persons 7+ in Canada; 61 per cent are reached by FM Breakfast drive as 6 to 9 a.m. continues to be the highest daily tuned period of all demographics. Women 18+ tune in, on average, 22.4 hours

per week; men, 18+, 20.4 hours; teens, 13.0 hours, and children, 7.2 hours.

In television, prime time is 7 to 11 p.m. and 99 per cent of Canadians two or more years of age live in households equipped with television sets. Of that, 56 per cent have two or more TV sets in the household and 69 per cent live in cable-equipped households.

And according to Statistics Canada, women over 60 spend much more time watching television than other age groups such as teenagers. In 1987 women spent an average of 35.5 hours a week watching TV. In comparison, average Canadians, of either sex, watched for about 24 hours. Teenagers were below that at 19.2 hours, less than children aged 2 to 11 who averaged 21.4 hours.

Newfoundlanders watched the most TV, 27.7 hours a week; Albertans watched the least, 21.8 hours.

Almost half of all viewing went to comedy and drama programs. News and public affairs registered almost 20 per cent, and sports six per cent.

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## BROADCAST BEAT

by Phil Stone

**Don Hamilton**, president of Ocean Pacific Broadcasting Company, a past president of the CAB, and an active community worker, was elected chairman of the board and CEO of Discovery Foundation, which distributes long-range earnings to universities in British Columbia for research ... **Daniel Richler**, son of novelist **Mordecai Richler**, became head of arts programming at TVOntario. He had earlier been producer/host of City-TV's *The New Music*, and then arts correspondent for *The Journal* at CBC-TV ... Another son in the news was **Chris Wallace**, whose father is **Mike Wallace** of CBS' *60 Minutes*. Chris, who had been NBC's White House correspondent, moved to ABC to help develop a new prime-time news program for which he'll be chief correspondent ...

**Keith Morrison**, who most recently had been CEO at Western Broadcast Sales, became the firm's president ... **Beverley A. Martin** became national sales manager for the CKO Radio National Network. Bev has a wide background in media, and we know him as an active member of the Variety Club of Ontario ... *The Twist*, the dance craze of the 50s, quietly celebrated its 30th anniversary. Many of us spun **Chubby Checker's** version of what became a #1 hit ...

There's a fact about the late **Dennis Braithwaite** that is not too well known: he only lasted four months, but in 1937 he was the first announcer for the celebrated CBC radio program, *The Happy Gang*. Provocative, controversial and sometimes outrageous, he served as broadcasting columnist over the years for each of the Toronto newspapers in turn - *Star*, *Globe and Mail* and *Sun* ... *Highway to Heaven*, the sitcom starring **Michael Landon**, is now in its fifth and final season ... **Judith Smith**, formerly senior marketing analyst for CBC TV/Sales, was named marketing manager for CBC's *The News Channel*. **Don Clark** and **Peter Nichols**, CBC Television Network sports specialists, were each given the additional role of account supervisor for *The News Channel*.

In all, **Howie Meeker** will do color on five NHL games this season for *The Sports Network* ... **Robin Geoffrey** was appointed program and promotions manager at CFCO Chatham, ON. He had previously been PD at CKCW Moncton, NB ... **Peter Hughes** was named vp, marketing, at MCA TV International, working from his new base at Universal City, CA ... If you have occasion to deal with Ontario Place you might wish to make note that **Mara Brown** became senior manager, marketing and public relations ...

We're told that there's a young child whose parents watch *Jeopardy* who goes around crying, "And now here's Alex Quebec!" ...

**Greg Quill** succeeded **Jim Bawden** as the Toronto Star's television critic. Bawden became columnist of *Starweek*, the Saturday Star's TV magazine ... **Theresa Lumson**, whose background includes service at CHUM Toronto, CFUN Vancouver and CKLC Kingston, became promotion manager at the Global Television Network. At the same time, **David Hamilton** was promoted from senior publicist to Global's public relations manager ... The cover of the winter issue of *York Alumns News* is graced with a photo of newscaster **Sandi Rinaldo**. The inside story says that she graduated in Fine Arts from York University in 1973 with honors in dance ...

Back in 1962 when ABC elected to not renew the TV series, *Maverick*, co-star **Jack Kelly** took to the road doing musicals like *Guys and Dolls*. He is now in politics serving as councilman in Huntington Beach City, CA, and has his eyes on becoming Orange County supervisor ... Definition of prime time: The Broadway of TV ... Thirty countries in every corner of the globe see CBC-TV's *The Nature of Things* ... TV Guide did a feature piece on **Larry Mann**, the one-time CHUM morning man who has leaped into prominence through the Telecom commercials ... Unless they are on nationally televised games the New York Yankees will no longer be seen on free home TV. The club signed an agreement to have their games televised on the Madison Square Garden cable TV network beginning next season and running through the year 2000 ... **Knowlton Nash** is hosting a new weekly news review on CBC-TV called *Saturday Report*. A 60-minute feature, it is scheduled to go on CBC's all-news channel ... **Ted Thorn** was appointed vp and gm - Nielsen TV Ratings. He now has the responsibility for the Diary Service as well as Nielsen People Meter Service scheduled to begin this fall ...

Winners of International Broadcasting Awards, sponsored by the Hollywood Radio and Television Society, will be announced on March 22nd. Canadian entries could well be on the winner's list ... **Diane Legris**, who had been vp of CF Cable, became vp of programming at Television Quatre Saisons. She succeeded **Andre Picard**, who is now with IMAX Systems as vp, film ... At a cost of \$1-billion, CBS won exclusive network rights to televise major league baseball from 1990 to 1993. The network had not previously aired a major league ball game since 1965; **Brent Musberger** will be the voice ... At age 55, **Carole Burnett** is still going strong, starring in seven half-hour comedies for CBS-TV ... Over the years **Jerry Lewis**, as chairman of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, has raised almost \$500 million ... **Allan Waters'** children, sons Jim and Ron and daughter Sheryl Bourne, were elected directors of CHUM Ltd. ...

A new book of essays that could be of interest is the one by **Mark Crispin Miller: Boxed In: The Culture of TV** ... CKND-TV Winnipeg has introduced closed captioning on its 6:00 p.m. edition of *First News* to improve service for hearing-impaired viewers ... **MuchMusic** appointed **David Kirkwood** director of sales and marketing ... The Fraser Valley Radio Group formed a new marketing division, Starcom Broadcast Sales. **Peter Alpen** was appointed vp, marketing, and **George Hellman** corporate marketing advisor ... **Bill Cosby**, said to be one of the richest men in show business, gives generously to traditionally black U.S. colleges. An example was the \$20-million given to Atlanta's Spelman College last November ... The establishment of the Cable Television Standards Foundation, with offices in Ottawa, saw **Ralph F. Brooks** chosen council chairman and **Maurice Gingras** executive director ... Community Programming, Cable 10, Etobicoke, ON., operated by Maclean Hunter Cable TV., won a National Crime Prevention Award for its variety of series and special programs designed to aid crime prevention.

*Phil Stone welcomes your news for Broadcast Beat. Write c/o 2350 Bridletowne Circle, #1601, Scarborough, ON, M1W 2E6. Please address information for other departments and staff at Broadcast Technology to P.O. Box 420, Bolton, ON, L7E 5T3.*

# Reliable Technology A Priority At Radio-Quebec Television Network

by Jean Lajoie, P.Eng, MBA

In 1949 the National Assembly of the Province of Quebec adopted a law creating L'Office de la radio du Québec. However, it was not until 1968 that a budget was voted to establish and operate a television service to offer cultural and educational programming to all Quebecers.

Studio and offices were installed in an old storage facility in eastern Montreal, not far from the CFTM-TV studio. The productions were then broadcast by the CBC, intended for in-school use. But, soon after, programming was made available to the general public through cable TV systems in Montreal and Quebec City.

High-power UHF TV transmitters were installed in Montreal and Quebec City in 1975. Two years later, in 1977, Radio-Quebec acquired the TV transmitter of CFVO-TV Hull after it went bankrupt.

In 1979 it was decided to accelerate a plan to assure services throughout the province. The network department was created and a small team installed 14 transmitters in six years. Today, the network comprises 17 transmitters and covers more than 92.5 per cent of the Quebec population.

## The Terrestrial Network

This network is composed of the following transmitters: (The map on page 46 shows their coverage.)

### City Instal.Ch.XmtrPowerEIRP

|               |        |      |         |
|---------------|--------|------|---------|
| *Montreal     |        |      |         |
| 1975 17       | RCA    | 60Kw | 851.9Kw |
| Quebec        |        |      |         |
| 1975 15       | RCA    | 60Kw | 1298Kw  |
| Hull 1977 30+ | RCA    | 55Kw | 1327Kw  |
| Rouyn         |        |      |         |
| 1979 6-       | Harris | 25Kw | 299Kw   |
| Val d'Or      |        |      |         |
| 1979 12+      | Harris | 25Kw | 246Kw   |
| Chapeau       |        |      |         |
| 1979 23+      | Acrd.  | 1Kw  | 8.65Kw  |
| Sherbrooke    |        |      |         |
| 1982 24+      | Com    | 55Kw | 549Kw   |
| T-Rivieres    |        |      |         |
| 1981 45       | Com    | 55Kw | 1188Kw  |
| Rimouski      |        |      |         |
| 1981 31       | Com    | 55Kw | 716Kw   |
| Chicoutimi    |        |      |         |
| 1982 8+       | T-CSF  | 25Kw | 278Kw   |



|              |        |      |        |
|--------------|--------|------|--------|
| Baie Trinite |        |      |        |
| 1982 12-     | Larcen | 10Kw | 155Kw  |
| Sept-Iles    |        |      |        |
| 1982 9-      | Larcen | 10Kw | 246Kw  |
| Carleton     |        |      |        |
| 1984 15+     | Tnsend | 30Kw | 1061Kw |
| Gascon       |        |      |        |
| 1984 32-     | Tnsend | 30Kw | 1202Kw |
| Perce        |        |      |        |
| 1984 40-     | LGT    | 1Kw  | 8.55Kw |
| Gaspé        |        |      |        |
| 1984 35+     | LGT    | 1Kw  | 8.43Kw |
| Riv-du-Loup  |        |      |        |
| 1985 31      | Comark | 10Kw | 716Kw  |

## Evolution Of The Network

Microwave links leased from Bell Canada, CNCP Telecommunications and Quebec Telephone until 1985 to transport the audio and video feeds from Montreal to the different transmitters. It is notable that many feeds originated from Montreal with different programs for different regions.

On January 1, 1985, following a

decision taken in 1983 for economic reasons, we began using the satellite for distribution. The changeover was carried out in two weeks and now only the Mount-Royal transmitter in Montreal requires a microwave STL.

Three uplinks were installed in Montreal so as to permanently feed one satellite channel with the national feed. The two other uplinks were used occasionally (more than 600 hours in 1985) to uplink one or two regional programs. A complex Control Centre was installed in Montreal (see Photograph) to control this traffic. A subcarrier accompanies each program transmitted on the satellite to supply the pertinent information to each of the transmitting sites. This information is able to control the two satellite receivers installed at each site (frequency agility), the audio-follow-video switcher to distribute the required programs and to also turn on or off each transmitter.

These occasional channels are no longer used due to a change in the regional programs policy. Now all the terrestrial transmitters receive a unique program feed. But this system is still operational and is used on special events and also to control the transmitters. Presently Television Quatre-Saisons is unlinked by one of these three uplinks, the third uplink has also been used by a third party for months, but is considered primarily as a backup for the two other services.

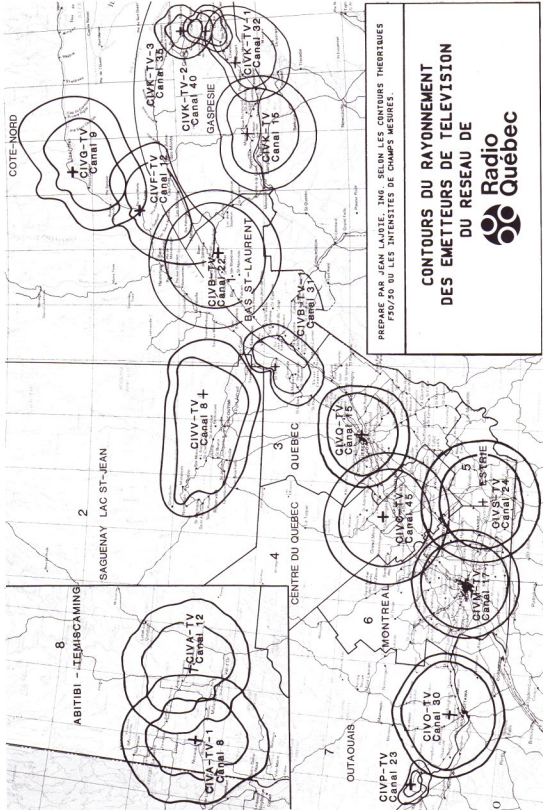
This network is fed by the Anik C3 satellite from our Montreal studio, remote cable television operators receive our satellite feed and distribute it over their systems. Over 40,000 homes are equipped with small Ku band TVROs. Taking all of this into account, more than 95 per cent of the Quebec population can be reached by Radio-Quebec's programming.

In 1981 a remote control and monitoring system was designed and installed at the various transmitter sites. This system, based on a HP-85 micro computer and Fluke 2400 ac-

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## CJCB Sydney Celebrates 60th Birthday



Radio Station CJCB celebrated its 60th anniversary in February, one of the oldest and most respected stations in Atlantic Canada and the cornerstone of a Sydney-based broadcasting company serving the Cape Breton region of Nova Scotia.

And it all began because Nathaniel Nathanson wanted to sell more records and phonographs and radios.

Nathanson owned a book and music store in Sydney which successfully sold records and phonographs, and when radio came along he stocked a good selection. Sales of the new invention were good, despite limited reception, but Nathanson reasoned they would be much better if Sydney had its own radio station.

"We needed a local radio signal that could be heard," he said in an interview more than 25 years ago, "because outside reception was a very indifferent thing. One day it came and the next day it didn't. A local station would fix that.

"The only reason I started a radio station was to give people something to hear with the boxes they were buying."

### Humble Beginning

On Feb. 14, 1929 CJCB Radio officially went on the air.

It was a humble beginning. The station was only on the air for a few hours at noon and again for three hours in the evening. Power was provided by a converted 50 watt ship's transmitter.

In that same long ago interview, Nathanson recalled what happened when the station began broadcasting.

"When that signal became steady, poor as it was, the response was

unimaginable. People were mystified and excited about this new thing they had in their homes. When the station started ... the ability to hear a signal during daylight hours was something that even those who owned a radio set didn't believe possible. Until we started, reception only came in during the dark hours. Now people could hear it in the daytime too.



Norris Nathanson

"Sales of radios soared unbelievably. People who didn't have one would block the streets in front of homes where there was a radio, listening to the sounds. And the sidewalk (outside the store) was so congested with people wanting to buy radios that a policeman would make them line up so others could get by."

Nathanson admitted that at first he only saw broadcasting as a way to sell his radios. But by 1933, he said, he realized radio was going to be more

than just a toy and CJCB was on its way.

In 1935 the station installed a 1,000 watt transmitter; that was increased to 5,000 watts daytime and 1,000 watts nighttime after the Second World War. It was after the latter power increase that Nathanson put CJCB-FM on the air.

### Has Come A Long Way

CJCB has come a long way in 60 years. Today it broadcasts in stereo with 10,000 watts of power. CJCB-FM has grown into an important station in its own right and is now CKPE-FM stereo.

In the early 1950s Nathanson began to plan for a television station for Sydney. On October 3, 1954 CJCB-TV officially began broadcasting. The station was housed in a separate building that had been specifically designed as a television plant.

Stereo-equipped studios, a satellite dish to pull in news and programming, and computers to improve efficiency are only part of a continuing program of upgrading that keeps CJCB and its 50 staffers in the forefront of broadcasting in Atlantic Canada.

Nathaniel Nathanson died in 1966, but his sons Marvin and Norris have carried on in broadcasting. Marvin is vice-president of operations of the Atlantic Television System, present owners of CJCB-TV, and president of Celtic Investments, operators of CJCB/CKPE-FM Sydney. Norris is vice-president of Celtic Investments and general manager of the Sydney radio stations.



## people in the news

**Acrian Inc.**--**Charles Jackson** appointed manufacturing engineering manager; **Walt Dorsey** director of manufacturing; and **Dr. Moni G. Mathew** director of engineering, amplifier division; **Dale W. Matteson** general manager, and **James K. McDaniel**, marketing manager, silicon semiconductor division.

**Amplia Foto/Video Inc.**--**Hans Ohlig**, president, has become a sponsor member of the Society of Television Lighting Directors.

**BBM Bureau of Measurement**--**Tony Viner**, with Rogers Broadcasting since 1982 as executive vp and gm of CFTR/CHFI-FM Toronto, appointed chairman of the board.

**Broadcast News Ltd.**--**Rina Steurman** appointed manager, satellite sales.

**Cabinet Ltd.**--**Ross Jepson** appointed president after serving briefly as senior vp and COO.

**CAB**--**Glen G.D. Milne** appointed senior vp, television, of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters.

**CBC-TV**--**Paul Chato** has been placed in charge of sitcom development as CBC's new creative head for TV situation comedy.

**CHRX/CJRR-FM Vancouver**--**Jack Simmons** appointed general sales manager.

**CISL Vancouver**--**W. (Bill) Waddington** appointed gm, **Janis McInnes** national sales manager and **Alex Adamson** creative services manager.

**CFGM Toronto**--**Tom Tompkins** appointed program director.

**CKVU-TV Vancouver**--**Barry Millar** appointed promotion manager.

**CTV Network**--**Deborah McGregor**, Ottawa bureau chief of the

Financial Times, named co-host of *Canada AM*, replacing Nancy Wilson.

**Digital FX**--**Barbara A. Koalkin** appointed director of marketing.

**Global Television Network**--**Howard Bernstein** named news director, replacing Rudi Carter who returned to the CBC.

**IDB Communications Group Inc.**--**David Kirchheimer** elected to the board of directors. He is vp and chief financial officer for Republic Pictures Corp.

**Magnetic North**--**Tony Hayman** appointed vp and assistant gm, responsible for day-to-day operations.

**Orban Associates**--**David Roubesh** named marketing and sales manager, professional products.

**Rhode & Schwarz Canada Inc.**--**David G. Stephenson** appointed gm, based in Kanata, Ont.

**Satellite Network Systems**--**Edwin S. Van Hamm** appointed vp, responsible for operations and marketing and **Philip Lucachick** director of operations.

**Telefilm Canada**--**Louis Laverdiere** appointed director of operations, Quebec region; **Louise St-Louis** manager of co-productions, Quebec region; **Janet MacLellan** manager legal services, Montreal; and **Marlynnne Anne Vince** manager, business affairs, Vancouver.

**Tele-Metropole**--**Claire Sampson** appointed vp communications and **Romeo Tremblay** vp sales and marketing.

**The Systemation Co.**--**Barry Honel** appointed national Systemation representative based in Atlanta and responsible for developing new domestic and foreign markets.

**White Radio Ltd.**--**Bruce Gagnon** appointed Ontario sales manager, communications group, responsible for product and customer development in the CATV industry in Ontario.

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## IN MEMORIAM

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**Alphonse Oulmet**, who went to work for the CBC as an engineer when it was founded 52 years ago and rose to become its president, died Dec. 20 at the age of 80. In the 1940s he studied the operation a new technology—television—in the United States and Europe, and later played a major role in its introduction in Canada. He became assistant director of the CBC in 1952 and director the following year. He was appointed CBC president in 1958, a post he held until 1967. He was president of Telesat Canada from 1969 to 1980. Among his many honors, he was named a Companion of the Order of Canada.

**George E. McCurdy**, one of the best-known names in Canadian broadcasting, died suddenly December 18 in Toronto. He was 74. He began his career while still in high school, acquiring an amateur radio licence and building a station in his parent's home. He joined CKLW Windsor as a transmitter technician when the station went on the air in June, 1932. He joined Roy Thompson's group of radio stations eight years later as chief engineer of the Kingston station, moving to Toronto in 1943 where he helped Thompson construct a string of stations in northern Ontario, building or modifying much of the equipment himself. He began McCurdy Radio Industries in 1948 and watched it grow to become a major supplier of audio equipment to North American broadcasters, selling it in 1983. He formed McCurdy Telecommunication Products, a designer and manufacturer of telephone related equipment, in 1972. He was named Canadian Broadcaster of the Year in 1969.

**Roy Tash, C.S.C.**, considered the dean of Canadian newsreel cameramen, died December 7 at the age of 90. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he moved to Canada in 1919 and became the foremost photographer for newsreels, which were featured in cinemas around the world before the age of television. For more than 50 years he photographed royalty, politicians, fires, floods and funerals for numerous newsreel companies, including Pathe News and Fox Movietone News. After his retirement in 1967 he remained active with the Canadian Society of Cinematographers, and was honorary treasurer at the time of his death. The Society awards a trophy in his name each year to the best news cameraman in Canada.

**William I. (Bill) Patterson**, a retired broadcast executive, died Jan. 1 in Dartmouth, N.S. after a brief illness. He was 65. A native of Dartmouth, he was senior vice-president of CFDR and Q104 in that city until his retirement in 1987. He had joined his brothers and others in launching CFDR in 1962. He was also a former commodore of both the Maritime and Canadian canoe associations.

**John Mann**, a well-known broadcast engineer, died recently in Calgary. He joined Central Dynamics Ltd. in Pointe Claire, Que. in 1968 after serving as a television engineer with the BBC. He joined the broadcast division of Philips Electronics Industries in Toronto the following year. In 1974 he joined Rogers Radio in Toronto as director of engineering for CFTR/CHFI-FM, moving to M.S.C. Electronics two years later. In 1980 he became general manager of technical services for the Alberta Education Communications Corporation in Calgary. He ended his career in Calgary as supervisor/manager of technical services for the University of Calgary's department of communications, a position he held until shortly before his death.

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