

## CRTC APPROVES CHCH-TV SALE

The purchase of CHCH-TV Hamilton by WIC was approved by the CRTC just before Christmas. WIC will pay Maclean Hunter \$40.5 million for the station. It was the fourth application to sell CHCH, since it was acquired by MH as part of Selkirk Communications in 1989.

Also approved: the purchase of Cablecasting Ltd. by Shaw Cablesystems Ltd., making Shaw the third largest MSO in Canada, with 870,000 subscribers.

## BBM PLANS NEW PEOPLE METERS

Using sonar technology, portable 'people meters' may soon be measuring TV and radio audiences. Wherever the 'respondents' go, pocket-size devices will pick up and log coded signals which identify each station. The BBM Bureau of Measurement, as part of a joint venture led by Arbitron of New York, plans to spend \$500,000 over the next two years to introduce the technology into Canada. Developed for the U.S. Navy, the sonar technology is being adapted for commercial use by Intellysis Automation of California. The units are expected to cost less than \$200; encoding equipment will cost stations \$5000. Overnight data could be obtained via modems.

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## CTV OWNERSHIP RESOLVED

The long and sometimes acrimonious attempt to restructure the ownership of the CTV Television Network has ended with only one shareholder withdrawing. Newfoundland Broadcasting (CJON-TV) opted not to participate, but remains an affiliate. The other seven shareholders will each contribute \$2 million to provide a capital infusion of \$14 million.

The agreement had a positive effect on the shares of at least one of the owners — Electrohome stock rose, and rumors circulated of a takeover bid. The firm's chairman, John Pollack, said the family had no interest in selling control.

## ALL-CANADA, UNITED MERGER

Two of Canada's largest national rep houses plan to merge. United Broadcast Sales, owned by Westcom Radio Group (WIC), and All-Canada, owned by Rogers Broadcasting, will form a new entity to be equally owned by the two partners. Patrick Grierson, president of UBS, will be its president. All-Canada's president, John Gorman, has moved to the parent company, Rogers. Grierson says the primary focus of the new entity will be to advance radio within the advertising community, with research to prove its effectiveness and streamlined systems for making radio buys.

## ONTARIO URGED TO KEEP OFIP

Representatives of the film and TV production industry are urging the Ontario government to continue the Ontario Film Investment Program, due to expire in March. Since 1989, it has provided \$44 million in rebates on investments for productions which spend at least 75% of their budget in the province. Taxes raised as a result were estimated at \$47 million.

## NFB FOCUS NOW ON TELEVISION

The annual report of the National Film Board reveals that its films were aired on TV 7,654 times during the 1991-92 year. A weekly NFB series on Vision TV is seen by more than 350,000 viewers. Telecasts were up 2,400 or 45% over the previous year, while theatre bookings dropped from 95 to 34. Sales of videos more than doubled to 54,125. In its 52nd year, NFB completed 124 productions and won 102 international awards. International showings, however, decreased, as did sales of videos and prints. Budget for the year was \$88.4 million; debt is \$9 million.

## TREND IS TO PAYING FOR TV: In

the U.S., television viewers are now spending more money for the programming they watch (via cable and pay-TV) than advertisers spend to buy time on television programs... Consultant Bill Harvey of Next Century Media told the InfoVision 1992 conference that 12% of viewers change channels during ads, and 35% of the time they leave the room when ads come on. He foresees interactive TV providing 'infomercials' on demand. Advances in data compression will allow cable subscribers to choose from 800 channels, most of them pay-per-view without commercials... **Public Broadcasters Meet in Brussels:** TVO and CBC were represented at PBI '92, the second meeting of Public Broadcasters International. (The founding meeting took place in Toronto, Nov/91). Bill Roberts of TVO said "more international cooperation is absolutely vital" to cope with budget cutbacks, globalization and other problems facing public broadcasters... TVO has announced an agreement with EBS of South Korea to share programming and research...

**Business Activity:** Radiomutuel Inc. reports profits increased to \$1.6 million, up from \$1.3 million the previous year. Revenues were up 10% to \$44.6 million... Observers expect Moffat earnings to go up after the sale of its ten radio stations; profits are increasingly from the cable operations... CanWest was expecting the deal to buy Australia's Channel 10 Network to close by Dec. 31. A consortium will pay about \$200 million (Cdn.), with CanWest investing about \$48 million, but limited to 15% equity under foreign ownership regulations...

**U.S. News:** A new radio news service is being launched by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson of *The 700 Club*. StandardNews will begin in February with seven newscasts an hour for both religious and secular stations. It claims to have 600 stations lined up... Radio Computing Services has won a \$100,000-plus piracy lawsuit against KWOD Sacramento, CA. The court ruled that KWOD improperly copied and used the RCS Selector® program... NBC and IBM have teamed up for "news on demand" system for the business/financial market. By next year, personal computers will be able to call up items from NBC Desktop News, supplied by NBC News and the NBC cable TV channel. **BT**

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## STATIONS IN THE NEWS

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Congratulations to **RADIO-QUEBEC** on its sweep of 10 Prix Gémeaux for the mini-series *Bombardier*; the educational network won a total of 26 awards. **RADIO-CANADA**, traditionally the big winner, is still in top spot with 30 awards. *Jamais Deux Sans Toi*, which ended its 15-year run in December, was the leading prize-winner for SRC... If the CRTC approves, **CKKW/CFCA-FM Kitchener** will be bought by **CHUM Limited**. VP Bill McGregor says the sale enables Electrohome to focus on TV, and he's pleased the buyer is a strong radio operator (CHUM owns 20 stations across Canada)... **MITV** has filed applications to extend its Maritime TV network. Transmitters would be added at New Glasgow, Shelburne, Sydney and Yarmouth, N.S., with a frequency change at Moncton, N.B.... **Baton Broadcasting Inc.** expects a CRTC decision by January 15 on its purchase of **CFPL-TV London** and **CKNX-TV Wingham**. The company has expanded from two to 17 TV stations since 1986 and is not expected to give a high priority to further acquisitions... As BT goes to press, no word on when **Rawlco's** new Country FM in Toronto will be on the air. A 3-month extension to March 17 has been requested from the CRTC, however GM Keith James says Rawlco wants to get on the air as soon as possible... There doesn't seem to be as much 'hype' as usual about the latest ratings book, however here's what we've seen so far: In Toronto, **CHFI** again claims top spot on FM; share is up from 10.1 (Spring/92) to 11.7% (Fall/92), with overall tuning up a million hours to 9,613,000 and "huge" leads in the 25-54 demo... #2 FM: **CHUM-FM**, down from 8.9 (Spring/92) to 7.9 (Fall/92)... Classical **CFMX-FM** increased share from 2.2 to 3.4, with a 50% increase in hours tuned, to 2,383,525 in the Toronto C.M.A. In the total coverage area, circulation is 320,800 with 3,228,000 hours tuned... On AM, it goes without saying that **CFRB** is still on top. However, **CJCL** has succeeded in increasing its male 24-54 target demo (by about 30%) since switching to 'The Fan' all-sports format. Female listeners 18-34 were up 12%, female 25-54 down 5%... Suburban **CKAN** moved to fill the gap left by **CJCL's** format change, and is now **CKDX Newmarket**, 'Good Time Oldies', with news from SBN... **CKLH-FM Hamilton** reports the best ratings in its 6-year history, with the 'K-Lite' format launched in June/92. The station claims to be #1 among females 25-54 and PD Pat Cardinal credits morning man Jason Roberts with keeping listeners happy... Speaking of morning men, Scott Barratt has joined Sharryn Graham as co-host of the morning show on **CJJR-FM Vancouver**... Power Broadcasting has seen ratings increase since buying **CKDO/CKQT-FM Oshawa**, repatriating local listeners from nearby Toronto stations... There are new sounds at other Power stations: **CKLA-FM** became **CIMJ-FM Guelph** (Magic 106.1), an AC format. After almost 50 years, the **CHEX** call became **CKRU Peterborough**, 'Good Time Oldies'. And **CFZZ St-Jean-sur-Richelieu** switched to Z-104 FM, *Le Rocker sympathique*... A new campus station, **CJLX-FM Belleville**, Ontario, was launched at Loyalist College on December 17... After Golden West Broadcasting bought **CHAB Moose Jaw** the format went country. A piece in the *Financial Times* noted that Golden West's blend of country music and religious programming works well. A large part of the company's revenues comes from providing technical services to Christian broadcasters in Central and South America. Says GW president Elmer Hildebrand: "We focus on the immediate community and give the people what they want."

**How secure are YOUR facilities?** Theft and vandalism continue to be a problem for broadcasters. One of the latest victims is **CHOW Welland**. On December 2, morning man Jay Hart arrived to find a break-in had resulted in damage to about \$30,000 worth of equipment. Stolen items included the CD players, and **CHOW** was off the air for seven hours. The police noted that *the station didn't have an alarm system*... Speaking of **CHOW**, the withdrawal of its application for FM is just a temporary delay, to resolve technical aspects... There are conflicting views on the success of **CBC-TV's** 'repositioning' with *Prime Time News* in the 9-10pm slot. The Corporation's PR director, Tom Curzon, says overall audience is holding. Over at **CTV**, they're very happy with the larger audiences staying up for the 11pm news, and the **CBC Newsworld** channel is also getting larger audiences for *The National* at 10pm... **CHCH-TV Hamilton** aired a 2-hour special, *Let's Celebrate December 19*. It grew out of a video competition — held to mark Canada's 125th year — that attracted more than 250 entries. The show has also been made available to other stations across Canada... A *Globe and Mail* article tells of a project to sell tapes of **CBC Radio** dramas. Listen Hear, a company operated by Bev Horan, who is also a marketing specialist with the Fraser Institute in Vancouver, is selling the tapes on a mail-order basis. So far, about eight tapes are available at prices ranging from \$10 to \$40. The big problem, of course, is copyright clearance. Michael Skeet, who heads the transcription service, says **CBC's** Montreal archives hold "tens of thousands" of dramas, accumulated over 56 years of radio broadcasting... **CKCK-TV Regina** and The Cor Group produced the two-episode *Tapestry of the Land*, airing this month on **Baton's** STN network. The first program looks at Saskatchewan's multicultural heritage; the second, at the (francophone) 'Fransaskois' community. Co-hosts are Gord McInnes of 'CK-TV and Stephanie Adams of **CFQC-TV Saskatoon**; Ron Goetz is producer/director... Multicultural **CHIN-FM Toronto** increased power from 4 to 8.5kW... **CJAD Montreal** has a revised daytime lineup: Melanie King took over from Royal Orr on Jan. 4 in the 10am-noon slot, and returns with *Melanie's Body Shop*, 1-2pm. Jim Duff holds down the 2-4pm talk show. The 4-7pm *30/30 News* will start at 3pm Fridays for the weekend "beat the traffic" crowd... **TVOntario** has awarded its Grand Prize for an international educational TV production to Edward Briffa of the BBC for his program on Chernobyl. However, as a result of "difficult economic times" Chairman & CEO Peter Herrndorf announced that the \$50,000 award would be discontinued in the future. Programs by Briffa and five other finalists will be aired this year... **TVO** and **Ryerson** teamed up in December to give a 4-day crash course on videotaping and still photography to Canadian astronauts... In eastern Ontario, the Cambellford Area Radio Assn. has been licensed to operate a community FM, 50 watts on 98.7 MHz. Radio Communautaire Cornwall-Alexandria Inc. has applied for FM, 19.2 kW on 92.1 MHz... Britain's Independent TV Commission has turned down the only applicant for a fifth national TV service. Moses Znaimer of **CITY-TV Toronto** says Channel Five Holdings will try again if the ITC calls for applications... **BBC-TV** is trying to explain sloppy accounting that resulted in overspending by \$115 million... In the U.S., the FCC fined **Infinity Broadcasting** a record \$600,000, but let it to buy three more radio stations. The fine was for 'shock jock' Howard Stern's sleazy sex shows.

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## MODULAR CONCEPT IS PROBLEM SOLVER FOR KEY RADIO

by Bev Cline

Baseball fans across Ontario listened with unabashed joy to radio station CKGL/CHYM's *Don't Tell the Braves* song created to celebrate the Blue Jays' American League Championship win. As the crisp recording, with sports announcer Tom Cheek's words interspersed between the verses, played the airwaves, Dave Bossy, production manager, and the team who co-produced the song, held a celebration of their own.

The reason: Bossy and his team in Kitchener, Ontario, produced the song in the station's brand new modular control room and studio - the station's main production center. More to the point: Bossy and his team liked what they heard.

The modular concept is new to KEY Radio Limited, (a division of Maclean Hunter Ltd.), owner of CKGL-AM, Country and CHYM-FM, Adult Contemporary. KEY Radio had considered moving the stations to new premises from their 11th and 12th floor digs in a downtown office tower, says J. Paul Firminger, vice-president of engineering, KEY Radio. However, when the total costing was complete, the decision was made to remain in their present location and to renovate.

But here was the rub: If the company elected to go with conventional concrete construction and a concrete floating floor for the studio and control room, it would have taken close to six months for construction and required a total dislocation of his staff says Firminger. KEY decided to opt for a modular system from Mecart of Quebec City, an 18-year old company specializing in prefabricated modular buildings for the industrial, educational and communications sectors. By choosing the modular system, which required only two weeks to install, the radio station was able to keep continuous operation with minimal day-to-day disruption.

"Imagine, if you will, with conventional construction, bringing buckets of concrete up the elevator of this major office tower each and every night and weekend for months. Then, when the workers reached the 11th floor, they would have had to trudge up the internal staircase to the 12th floor since the elevator doesn't reach the operation floor of our facilities," says Firminger. "The cost was prohibitive - and would have included a security guard for off-hours construction, since there is a bank on the main floor."

The cost comparison between the modular system and the conventional system convinced Firminger to take the modular route. "Our figures showed us that the modular project would come in at \$70,000 or \$144 a sq. ft. with the Mecart system, as opposed to \$180 a sq. ft. for the normal conventional construction, without all the constraints of this particular project," says Firminger.

The modular system consists of custom designed 4" thick steel panels with baked enamel finishes, each weighing less than 200 lbs. With the modular system, the station can devote more space to production, as opposed to sound proofing and isolation. In comparison, conventional concrete construction or gypsum needs an 18"-20" space to obtain the same sound transmission loss.

Pre-wired for electrical facilities (switches, receptacles, lighting), each panel is equipped with cam action locking hooks and two full perimeter neoprene joints strips to ensure perfect airtightness and easy assembly.

A major factor in the decision to go modular is the system's innate portability adds Firminger. "If the station later changes

location, to move the production studio and control room would cost approximately \$10,000, since all we have to do is disassemble, transport and re-assemble it. Because the weight load is so minimal at 100 pounds per linear foot, the rooms could be relocated to a plaza, for instance, with a typical 2 x 8 structure."

Another advantage: Since Mecart offers a complete guaranteed performance turnkey package - assembling and testing the modular system at its own factory - KEY Radio would not have to use outside architects or acoustical consultants extensively. "Our sole costs for consultants on the modular studio and control room were only those required by the building ownership and the building code for load considerations and silenced HVAC, and were almost negligible" says Firminger.

One of the major problems of any studio is leakage through the rubberized seals of the lead doors. However, the modular system uses refrigerator-type doors with magnetic seals and a raised threshold to obtain the same airtightness around all the door frame perimeter. Mecart also installed a floating floor, which improves the level of soundproofing, while reducing vibration. In fact, the modular rooms are so quiet, with an actual NC-20 and STC-45 rating, that one day staff members exiting the control room literally almost fell over a woman vacuuming the floors directly outside the studio door. (Mecart also has a STC-52 model. Further, when critical noise reduction is required, a double construction model with an STC-60 rating is available.)

The enclosure is so sealed that dust is minimal and therefore very compatible with the latest digital CD and Hard Disk recording requirements. Bossy, the production manager who works in the room every day, makes it clear: "The only air exchange is through the ceiling vents. In our old studio, I dusted every day to keep it clean. But in here it feels almost like a clean room."

The look of the studio and control room is sleek and modern looking as befits a radio station production facility with state of the art digital equipment, including a soon to be installed Studer Dyaxis II 4-track system (replacing the Dyaxis I).

The modular system is flexible enough to allow the client to choose the wall coverings and flooring, in this case to conform with the materials used throughout the entire station. The materials for the ceiling, wall covering and flooring were selected for an optimum reverberation time of RT60 at 500 hz. for this application. The RT60 of the 2,577 cu. ft. studio is 0.25 seconds -- numbers that are right in line with the needs of the station's production engineers.

Sometimes life requires a small leap of faith - a go with your gut decision. In the case of KEY Radio in Kitchener, the decision to move away from conventional construction was not easily made - yet the rewards from that decision are apparent to Paul Firminger every day. Still, the bottom line is the question: Would KEY Radio consider using the Mecart modular system in any of its other stations? "Yes," says Firminger. "We're talking with them right now about other stations."

*Bev Cline is a Toronto writer, specializing in business, construction and technology.*

work in border areas because a U.S. station would step into the breach.

There's a quarter century club, a half century club and now a 60-plus club. At the head table at the 1992 dinner for all three was **Mart Kenney** of Mart Kenney and his Western Gentlemen, whom you'll remember if you're older than me. Committee chair **Lyman Potts**, who remembers them well, put together a tape of Mart's old music and had it playing as Mart walked into the room.

Here's an idea from Lyman that might not seem strange with the increasing amount of programming targeted at the over 50s. Says Lyman, why not reserve the old CKO licences for a coast-to-coast network aimed at older people?

The latest stations to target older demographics are CHEQ-FM Smiths Falls and XL Radio Calgary, the former Moffat station now owned by Golden West. XL Radio, "The Sound of Calgary," is aimed at baby boomers with a "natural no-hype" sound. **Jim Jackson** is PD and morning host. Promo material pushes the fact that 35-plus adults represent 42 per cent of Canada's population and radio boasts its highest reach with women and men aged 35 plus... CHFM-FM Calgary, formerly of Moffat but now twinned with Rogers' CFAC Calgary has brought aboard **Don Stevens**, from CFTR Toronto, as morning host... CKWX Vancouver is experimentally networking its midday and afternoon drive shows via SRN. **Jim Fraser** will continue to do his local morning show -- it won't be networked. Nine a.m. to 2 p.m. split between **Robbie Piel** and **Frank Sassin**, will be on satellite and so will **Michael Forbes'** 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. drive show. PD **Brian**

**Depoe** says 'WX wants to ensure it works before signing up stations. He has installed a Computer Concepts digital control system.

**Fred Goders**, assignment editor at CJCA/K-97, had a heart attack. He's improved, but is still off work... **Grant Ulliyot**, ND at CHWK Chilliwack, celebrated his 20th year at the station... Richard Peltmann (alias Ortman, Deppman, Peltman, Deltman, Datman, Deidman, Dedman, Dittman, Deyyman, Mrs. Richards, Dellman, Dentman, Ditman, Bettman, Deltman, Dietman, Schneider, Dattman, Detment, Petman, Ditman, Wind Tunnel, Deetman, Debman, Detmin, Dettwan) is news director of CFVR Abbotsford. Those are the names that have appeared on letters to **Richard Dettman**. Well, OK, but Schneider? Perhaps that's the most logical mistake. It's Richard's wife's name. I won't comment on Wind Tunnel...

CFVR and Rogers Cable TV co-produced a 90-minute Constitution forum with a live audience. Many cable companies produced Constitution shows, but this is the only joint venture I know of. It was carried on the Fraser Valley Broadcasters stations and to 500,000 homes in the lower B.C. mainland and Victoria, commercial-free, as a community service.

CKEG Nanaimo is in a new building with such a view across a bay I asked president **Bob Adshead** for a job as caretaker. Apparently there's already a list of applicants... With lower Vancouver Island booming, CHPQ Parksville is becoming almost a stand-alone with help from consultant **Paul McKnight**. Ops manager **Henry Brilz** of CHPQ and CHUB Nanaimo is rumored to have been seen cross-dressing, but it was about Hallowe'en time and the sight of his legs would successfully keep ghosts away... An interesting angle: C-FAX Victoria records its talk shows and sells cassettes for \$10 each. After expenses, the money goes to C-FAX's Santas Anonymous, which now raises up to \$300,000. **Terry Spence**, VP programming, says the station gets up to 20 requests a show. Most in demand are medical and financial subjects... I can't give C-FAX all the credit for helping out in Victoria. Morning host **Ed Bain** of CKKQ-FM (100.3 the Q) ran a garage sale with a little help from his friends and raised nearly \$5,000 for The United Way... C-FAX sports director **Ken Dobson** (The Dobber) is back in hospital for another operation for colon cancer. But it's a small op this time...

**Cliff Dumas**, country music personality of the year for the 3rd consecutive year, was staying at CHAM Hamilton, then got an offer he couldn't refuse to do mornings at Rawlco's Toronto FMer. I understand he'll still be hosting Sound Source's Country Countdown. **Tom Otto**, from Country 59, is ND of the new station. No on-air date yet... **Gordon Rawlinson** sported a button at the CAB convention saying: "If you ask me that again, I'll hit you." No call letters, either. Some Rawlco staffers had buttons saying: "If I told you, I'd have to kill you"... **Rina Steuerman** brought back a button from the NAB reading: "Wenja get in"... And you've seen the one that says: "Preserve our forests. Cancel your newspaper advertising." We thought of other possibilities including: "Feeling better now?"

**Grant Ainsley** is gone from CKRA-FM (K-Lite) Edmonton to become Supervisor, Customer Relations for the City of Edmonton's public works department... **Mike Goetze**, 27 years

## Executive Appointments



**Mr. Del Polowick**  
Regional Chief Engineer

Mr. Jim Rusnak, President of STN Television Network Incorporated, is pleased to announce the appointments of Mr. Del Polowick to the position of Regional Chief Engineer - Saskatoon / Prince Albert Region, and Mr. Richard Niebergall to the position of Regional Chief Engineer - Regina/Yorkton Region. Mr. Polowick has worked in broadcasting since 1958 serving most recently as Chief Engineer for CFQC TV. He will oversee the Technical Departments of CFQC TV Saskatoon and CKBI/CIPA TV Prince Albert. Mr. Niebergall has been Technical Director of CKOS/CICC TV for 22 years. Based in Regina, his responsibilities include the Technical Departments for CKCK TV Regina and CKOS/CICC TV Yorkton.

These appointments are effective immediately.



STN Television Network Incorporated, a wholly owned subsidiary of Baton Broadcasting Incorporated, is comprised of CFQC TV Saskatoon, CKCK TV Regina, CKBI / CIPA TV Prince Albert and CKOS / CICC TV Yorkton, Saskatchewan.



**Mr. Richard Niebergall**  
Regional Chief Engineer



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## 'DX' an inexpensive news-gathering tool when conventional methods fail:

# SHORTWAVE MONITORS THE WORLD

by Murray Bosch

Stephen Canney will never forget the voice on Beijing Radio that detailed the Tiananmen Square massacre hours before the news reached Canada.

"There was an announcement in English by some guy who took over the microphone and began blaming the government for the massacre. Basically, he was making a political statement," Canney explains. "Next thing I knew, he was off the air and a voice came on saying 'Now, the Beijing news.' They must have yanked the guy out of the studio."

That daring broadcast was one of several as-it-happened news stories Canney has heard in 23 years spent as an avid shortwave radio listener.

### Ontario DX Association 1300 Strong

It's also a good example of how DX-ing, as it's sometimes called, can be used as an inexpensive news-gathering tool by the media when conventional methods fail.

Vice-chair of the 1300-member Ontario DX Association, Canney, 36, freelances as a shortwave communications consultant and is a frequent guest on local talk radio shows where he promotes the group — second largest in North America — and the hobby.

Maps and charts paper the den in Canney's Willowdale home where he spends countless hours tuning into broadcasts from virtually every country on the globe — and beyond.

"Sometimes you can hear broadcasts of the space shuttles' communications. It's stuff you wouldn't normally hear on television and you can monitor it for hours on end," Canney says.

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at CFCW, is looking after CFCW and K-Lite. He started when he was nine, he says... **Andy Bryce** moved to MCTV at North Bay. His former ND chair at CHAT Medicine Hat was filled by **Brian Konrad** ... **James Tuckett** moved from North Bay to become assignment ed at CKVR-TV Barrie... STV Saskatoon will be originating parts of the Children's Miracle Network next June 5-6. Every province now participates... **Johnny Murphy**, former MD at CFCK-FM Selkirk, is now morning drive host at CKX Brandon. Johnny has been 38 years in the business, brought in by **Gord Sinclair** and **Mike Stephens**. He says he hasn't regretted a moment. The move also involved a CKX format switch from country to a country/pop gold mix. Other staff changes include **Ray Walker** to FM mornings and assistant PD from AM and **Jack Miller** to sports to replace **Glen Dufresne**, who's now marketing/media director with the Victoria Cougars of the WHL... **Don Fawcett** was at the Mayo clinic in Rochester for much of October undergoing major surgery to clean up the results of hiatus hernia. Lois says everything is fine and Don's coming along well.

Swing announcer **Paul Michaels** of Q103FM London picked up a new position as afternoon host at CKPC Brantford in the fall -- and a new name. He's now **Paul Wesley**. He left Q103 in first place in the annual hockey pool... **Michael Leigh** has been made GM of multi-lingual CJVB Vancouver.

### 120 Countries Operate 1600 Transmitters

Some 120 countries currently broadcast shortwave radio on more than 1600 transmitters using between 250 and 500 kilowatts of power. Individually licensed 'HAM' operators can also be heard broadcasting from all parts of the globe.

While people in most underdeveloped (and some developed) nations overseas use shortwave radio as their main source of news, North Americans see it as more of a hobby.

"We're overloaded with communications so, in a sense, it's overwhelmed the need for shortwave," Canney says.

But when natural disasters occur, or, as in the case of Tiananmen Square, political tensions come to a boil, shortwave radio listening (SWL) sometimes becomes the only source of news. "When the phone and power lines go down, that's when you get emergency HAM operators doing their thing," Canney says.

The Gulf War and the aftermath of hurricanes Hugo and Gilbert are past situations when some of Toronto's media have called on Canney to get a first-hand account of what was happening.

### "A Different View of What's Going On"

"The monitoring of reports on KOL Israel of the SCUD missile attacks helped to provide a different view of what was going on than what was being shown on CNN," Canney says.

Although news heard on shortwave radio generally comes from afar, it can also be used by those trapped in more harrowing circumstances: During the attempted coup by

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He's a former executive director of the Canadian Multicultural Council and director of B.C.'s multicultural programs. **Jack Stark**, whose consortium bought CJVB from retiring president **Jan van Bruchem**, is president and chairman... It seems CJVB is already using audio compression. Its program schedule includes: Hour of Decision from 7:30 to 7:55 a.m. on Sundays, The Italian Catholic Hour from 11.30 to noon, Father Justin Rosary Hour from 2.30 to 3 p.m. and the Spanish Lutheran Hour compressed into just 15 minutes from 6.45 to 7 p.m...

Super success for Canada's first all-sports station. The Fan Toronto (CJCL) went to third in the fall book from seventh among men 25 to 54, exactly the group targeted... **Scruff Connors** will stand trial this month on a charge of sexual assault. He was on leave from CFBR Edmonton, The Bear, as I wrote... **Dave Calder** has formed what he says is the first new western-based broadcast representative firm in a decade. The Vancouver company is C.S. Mediagroup West Inc. It already represents 14 stations. Dave is president and **David St. Laurent** VP and head of broadcast services.

*What's going on at your place...who got promoted, who left, etc? Send it to me c/o Broadcast News Ltd., 36 King Street East, Toronto, Ont., M5C 2L9, (416) 364-3172 or FAX (416) 364-8896.*

communist hardliners in 1991, Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev was reported to have used a shortwave radio to monitor BBC broadcasts while under house arrest.

### BBC, Voice of America, are two of Peter Trueman's favorite sources

Ex-Global news anchor Peter Trueman, a member of the Ontario DX Association, uses shortwave radio to monitor world news at his Amherst Island home on Lake Ontario. With no access to wire services or cable television, Trueman finds that SWL provides an adequate alternative when it becomes hard to stay on top of international news. "I tend to go to the radio when there's a story breaking somewhere in the world that I'd like to hear more about, or when I want to hear it from the horse's mouth," he says.

The BBC World Service — which attracts 120 million weekly listeners — and Voice of America are just two of several international stations tuned in to by Trueman.

Government-run stations in countries that are experiencing political turmoil can be regularly monitored for clues to when and if something is going to happen.

"A deviation from the usual content, or strain in a broadcaster's voice, can allow someone who listens regularly to pick up on trends immediately," says Keeble McFarlane, a new editor for CBC Radio in Toronto.

Canadians travelling abroad can tune in to the CBC's shortwave service, Radio Canada International, which broadcasts from a Sackville, New Brunswick, site. The CBC also has a facility near Ottawa that monitors international broadcasts to keep up with world events.

While the CBC monitoring station could be considered a luxury, most newsrooms can afford to go a more inexpensive route, Canney says. Costing anywhere from \$300 to \$2500, shortwave radios can be installed in newsrooms easily and provide an important backup to wire services or be used in tandem with other sources of information.

"There is a misconception that the equipment is highly technical and expensive. Actually, any newsroom can easily monitor international events simply by installing a shortwave receiver."

For further information contact Stephen Canney of Shortwave Communications Services at (416) 222-9658. Freelance writer Murray Bosch can be reached by phone/fax at (416) 609-3848.



# PHILIPS



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Dr. Bennis brought with him a short video tape of CBS' **Morley Safer** interviewing an 80-year-old female Admiral, **Grace Hopper** of the U.S. Navy, on leadership. Paraphrasing, here's what she had to say: Somewhere along the line we lost our leadership. Back in the old days when I went into the Navy, one of the first things we learned were the qualities of leadership; it was a two-way street. There's loyalty up and loyalty down. Respect your superior, keep him informed of what you're up to, and take care of your crew. That's what we lost somewhere. You cannot manage a man into combat, you must lead him. You manage things, you lead people. And I think the armed services, business, and politics fail to accept that responsibility today. This large push toward financial management taught by the business schools spread through all colleges. The whole thing was management, not leadership. We had courses in business management... and it didn't emphasize leadership. We forgot that no matter what you've got or what you're doing, you have to do it with people. I tell young people today that it's much easier to apologize for taking action that it is to get permission.

#### People/Stations...

CHSJ Saint John mid-day announcer **Ian Cameron**, who's held that job for almost eight years, also works Maritimes air shows as a stunt pilot... CHYM-FM Kitchener promotion manger **Valerie Corcoran** says the night before the AM-FM flip, "CHYM elves were decorating lawns, businesses, streets and sidewalks with the 96.7 CHYM logo. When the city woke, they rose to the CHYM-FM kickoff"... Speaking of Kitchener, there's been some head-scratching at CKKW/CFCA-FM since **Jack Schoone** walked away from his offer to buy. Speculation has been running rampant... From our There Goes The Neighborhood Dept., Q107 and CITY-TV Toronto sportscaster **John 'Don't call me Spike' Gallagher** just bought a house across the street from me... Still with Q107/CHOG, hasn't CHML/Y95 Hamilton GM **Don Luzzi** been doing a lot of commuting to Toronto lately?... And who sold Spike the house? None other than Mrs. **Bill Hayes**, wife of the MIX 99.9 Toronto midday guy... Which radio person has been doctoring the in-house football pool and scooping

the pot?... On Friday before Game 6 of the World series, fellow columnist **Tom Rivers** gave Toronto MIX 99.9 morning listeners the fax number to Atlanta's Ricco Hotel, where the Blue Jays were staying. Next night, on CTV's pre-game show, **Rod Black** said a Toronto disk jockey provoked encouraging and congratulatory faxes "to a depth of 15 inches" which swamped the hotel's fax machine... And, while we're talking about the World Series, Toronto's 'The Fan 1430' couldn't have scripted a better launch for their all-sports format. The station, and the Telemidia Network, have been carrying Jays games since 1977... CFTR Toronto PD **Don Stevens** has gone to Calgary's CHFM as morning-man; no programming duties.

CFRB Toronto Ops. Mgr. **Rob Mise** continues his weekend round trip travelling routine to Sudbury. Rob's wife and children, locked respectively into a good job and school, are making the best of the situation... K-Lite FM Hamilton began their *Share The Warmth* campaign back in October with the motto, 'No One Should Be Left Out In The Cold.' Listeners were invited to drop off unwanted coats and jackets to a participating dry cleaning location where they'd be cleaned, fixed and distributed by the Hamilton Sally Ann to those in need... KIXX/Q93 in Newfoundland, in a bold and aggressive campaign, has been talking to Newfoundlanders about the spread of AIDS and the effects on the community. Called *Aids in Newfoundland: It's Here and It's Real*, KIXX/Q93 publicly recognized AIDS as having affected their province to the same extent as it has some third world nations. Among other campaigns and documentaries, KIXX/Q93 -- in co-operation with Cable Atlantic -- put together a televised forum which included an educator, victim, counsellor, pastoral care worker, decision maker, medical expert and audience participation. Congratulations, KIXX/Q93!

Let's spend a moment or two with a guy who deserves a bit of recognition, if for no other reason that he's managed to keep his job for so long. This chap has been getting up early and heading to the radio station in darkness for four and a half decades; often from different directions and often, earlier on in his career, on remote control. For the past few



years, however, since his marriage to Lynne, our boy's been behaving himself remarkably. Back at the end of October, the station decided to celebrate our hero's 45th anniversary by using the ballroom of a large downtown hotel to welcome special guests and loyal listeners. Everyone had breakfast as they watched him and the morning crew do the show. Some of the leading lights in show business, including **Gordon Lightfoot**, were there. The mayor of the city and the premier of the province stopped by. Broadcasters from competing stations either showed up in person or telephoned him on air to wish him well and offer congratulations. Well, we here at BT also want to add our praise, applause and best wishes to CFRB Toronto's **Wally Crouter**. Way to go, Crout!

#### Future Journalists Must Look To Wider Field

In an open letter to broadcast educators, RTNDA president **Gary Ennett** (ND CFPL London) has advised that nearly 45% of radio and TV newsrooms have reported reductions in staffing. Among other RTNDA study findings (conducted by Carleton University Professor **Alan Frizzel**), most positions eliminated were full-time reporters; half of those stations polled indicated there was a hiring freeze in effect; and, many of the lost jobs are not going to be reinstated when the "good times" return. Ennett tells educators: "While a full economic recovery may allow for some new jobs to be created, the RTNDA is convinced that the current excess supply of journalistic talent will adequately meet most additional demand, at least in the foreseeable future. The board of directors of the RTNDA advises college and university officials responsible for admission to journalism programs to take these sobering facts into account when determining appropriate class sizes and graduation targets. We feel obliged to advise schools of journalism that future demand for reporters, camera persons, producers, editors and news anchors will remain relatively weak in the next few years."

Gary is absolutely correct. There's another story, though. **Richard Simpson**, a partner at the Toronto corporate/industrial video shop, Business Television Ltd., says the corporate/industrial communications milieu is still a growth

enterprise. While the economy has dragged it down a bit, Simpson sees a bright future for video production. He talks about interaction with computers on multi-media, or interactive video. He further notes that among his clients there are many young people now in management who are extremely video-oriented. They're more in favor of utilizing the whole corporate video aspect, he says. Corporate satellite distribution, too -- interactive communication between branches -- will see great growth, he predicts.

"As for the writing and creative aspects -- particularly as it applies to broadcast journalists -- the corporate sector needs people who can tell a story. As we enter into a more communications-oriented society, there will be new openings for people who can write -- they're difficult to find... Narrowing broadcast journalism to just TV or radio is not what we should be doing. There are going to be all kinds of different opportunities for writers, editors, announcers, production people, just as there always has been."

#### Computer Age Poetry

I have a spelling checker, It came with my PC.  
It plainly marks four my revue, Mistake I cannot see.  
I've run this poem threw it, I'm sure your please to no.  
It's letter perfect in its weigh; My checker tolled me sew.

--- Milwaukee Commerce Hotline

#### Bloopers...

"He said he likes to watch the sun go down on horseback." (Blazing Saddles?) \*\*\* "Congress Votes for Running Trains Over Union Workers" (Talk about being railroaded!) \*\*\* "We guarantee to replace all defected parts." (How about the ones that don't run away?) \*\*\* "Japanese Race Appears Reduced to Three" (The ultimate in 'lean' operations.) \*\*\* Police Capture One, Two Others on Lamb" (This oldie but goodie still makes it tough on sheep.)

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## ATLANTIC AIRWAVES

by Sandra Porteous



**Remote Technology for 'N.B. Talks':** The CBC News for New Brunswick has been launched with a 90-minute format and some innovative remote technology from NBTel. Executive producer **Mark Pederson** says fibre optic facilities at 11 sites give the show great flexibility, enabling it to go live from any of the sites for the 30-minute *N.B. Talks* segments... Moncton news: **Mike Allain** is back at CFQM-FM as swing announcer — we hear he's giving **Doug Pond** a run for his money in the 'comeback' category... CKCW has added **Tracey MacFarlane** on all-nights, and newsman **Mike Randall** has returned... Over at CBC Radio, former *Information Morning* co-host **Colleen K tts** now hosts *Mainstreet*; **John McMaster** is acting producer... Long-time Moncton host **Lori Joudrey** can now be found on *Information Morning*... And **Anne MacKinnon** is replacing radio news reporter **Jonna Brewer**, who's on a four-month French immersion course...

In Halifax, **Jack Kellum** is now performance producer at CBHT for network programs. Jack, who for the past 19 years has worked in Newfoundland, brings with him a wealth of variety and documentary experience. He and wife Maj are looking forward to settling into a new home in Halifax... **Frank Cameron** is busy hosting CBC's *The 5:30*, launched in November. The 30-year broadcasting veteran is joined by former *Maritimes Tonight* partner **Doug Saunders**. The lively half-hour news/info show delivers stories from all over the province, and producer **Sue Newhook** says it will give ordinary Nova Scotians a chance to air their views...

Over at K-100 in Saint John, general sales manager **Dave Clarkson** has added **Roland Belliveau** and **Trudy Milligan** to the sales team... Morning man **Dan Reid** brought his new 29-foot boat up from Florida and used it well into last fall... And K-100 staff are still talking about their annual party, held at the home of **Mark Lee**...

There's increased activity at CBC Halifax: The award-winning show *Codco* is in another season and is now getting its final mix in Halifax... *Street Cents*, switched to Sunday nights as part of the new prime time block; **Janet Thomson** is director, succeeded by **Barbara Kennedy** as senior producer. For the past 11 years, Barbara worked on *The Journal*... **Eli Gorn** joined *Street Cents* as a field/packaging producer, coming from Vancouver... And *Theodore Tugboat* is in production for the fall of 1993... CBC Radio executive producer **Barbara Nymark** moved to Charlottetown, from Saskatchewan... **Jack Farr** has decided to retire, but CBC Radio's *Canada Live* will still feature guests and live music from the Maritimes. Producer **Mark Andrew Cardiff**, recording engineer **Karl Falkenham** and technician **Pat Martin** handle the remotes...

Over on 'The Rock', KIXX/Q93 in St. John's have a bold new campaign to educate Newfoundlanders about AIDS. (See *Howard Christensen's* column, page 22 for details — ed.)... Nova Scotia Liberal leader **John Savage** hired a radio producer to replace **Liz Stevens**, fired as his communications director. **Ann Graham-Walker** directed CBC Sydney's *Information Morning* prior to the closing of the Cape Breton studios... **Deborah Woolway** has been promoted to senior editor of Radio news at CBC Halifax. She co-ordinated the coverage of the Westray Mine disaster, and came to Halifax after working in radio newsrooms in Saint John... A favorite on *Don Messer's Sing-Along Jubilee*, **Karen Oxley** died in Halifax in September. A memorial service in her honor was attended by many friends from her television days.

**Gus MacKinnon**, morning man for CJFX Antigonish, has retired. Gus was the longest-running talent in the station's 49-year history, and had a special charm and way of relating to listeners, who loved his humorous outlook on life. CJFX founding manager **Clyde Nunn** hired Gus in 1962. The well-loved celebrity reflected that, "Radio is a one-to-one thing. If I'm talking on the radio, I'm talking to you — just you — because you're the only one that counts." Enjoy retirement, Gus!...

Items for Atlantic Airwaves may be sent to Sandra Porteous c/o 7 Centre Street, Bedford, Nova Scotia, B4A 2B3.

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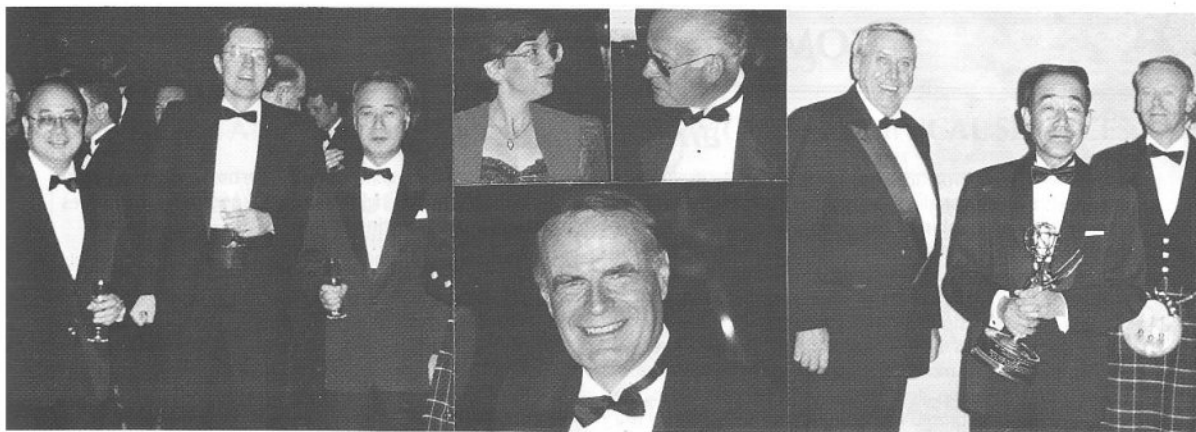
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Canadians mingled with award-winners at the Emmys in New York. From left: Yoshi Nakano; Gary Maavera, CTV; Takashi (Tom) Shikata; Barbara and Ken Davies (above), Gilles Hurtubise, CBC; Maurice Evans, Panasonic; Tsuzo Murase; David Hunter, CTV.

1982 there seems to have been an explosion of technologies resulting in an ever increasing number of Emmy recipients. The awards list from 1989 forward reads like a 'who's who' of the international broadcasting community.

My last visit to New York was for a SMPTE Conference. This was about eight years ago and my memory was of a very dirty city. I was impressed by the improvement in the cleanliness of the city on this visit.

Bob Findlay is BT's technical editor for television.

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## PEOPLE

• CAB: **Sharon Orr** named VP, marketing/member services, responsible for annual convention... • CBC: Executive producer **Mark Starowicz**, formerly of *The Journal*, is now responsible for TV documentaries, both in-house and independent; he'd been considering a move to CTV as VP/news... **Bill Cameron**, also ex-The Journal, took over as anchor of CBC at Six, out of Toronto. It's preceded by 5:30 Live, anchored by **Beth Harrington**... **Brian Stewart** was named senior correspondent for *Prime Time News*... **Wendy Mesley** is now anchor of *Sunday Report*... CBC-TV's *Midday* has two new co-hosts: **Kevin Newman** and **Tina Srebotnjak**. Kevin replaced **Ralph Benmergui**, who's now hosting *Friday Night!*; Tina replaced **Valerie Pringle** (see CTV)... Host **Jack Farr** has left CBC Radio's *Canada Live*; filling in is **Kris Purdy**...

• CFMX-FM Toronto /Cobourg: Illness has forced **Michael Comepeau** to resign; named PD is **John van Driel**, who's been with 'MX since 1983. **Doug Kay**, sales manager, is phasing out of management, but continues in sales; **Rod Walker** became acting SM Jan. 1st. GM **Jerry Good** paid tribute to Michael Comepeau as "the originator of the sound of CFMX." Comepeau, who continues as host of the pre-recorded *Nightwatch*, asks that donations be made to the AIDS Committee of Toronto on his behalf... • CTV: **Eric Morrison** was named VP of news as of January 4th; with CTV since 1976, he's been managing director of CTV's Ottawa news bureau & executive producer of news specials. President **John Cassaday** had been acting VP/News after **Tom Kotcheff** left to fill the same post at CBC... Co-host **Valerie Pringle** moved from CBC's *Midday* to join *Canada AM* on Jan. 11th. She replaces **Pamela Wallin**, who moved to CBC as co-host of *Prime Time News*...

• CKND-TV Winnipeg: On-air team for the Jets hockey broadcasts are sports director **Joe Pascucci** as host, **Bruce Buchanan** on play-by-play, and **Jim Peplinski** as color commentator... • CKLG Vancouver: Programming team now consists of PD **Dean Hill** and assistants **Kate Gorman** and **Stu McAllister**, all from LG's *Morning Zoo*. **Mary Ann McKenzie** is now full-time PD for CFOX-FM; **Jody Elle** continues as promotions director for both stations... • Drew Marketing: Named producer is the award-winning **Rob Crowston**, formerly of CKWX/KISS-FM Vancouver... • First Choice: **Lisa de Wilde** appointed executive VP, as of Jan. 1st. Previously she was director-general, cable services, CRTS, and a partner in a law firm... • Another honor for **Johnny Lombardi** of CHIN Radio/TV: The Commemorative Medal marking Canada's 125 years... • Loyalist College, Belleville: **Tim Rorabeck** named technician, journalism program and CJLX-FM, due on-air soon.

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## Cinemanía from Microsoft

by Carole Dingwall

Several months ago, ads started appearing for *Cinemanía*, a new product from Microsoft. We asked Microsoft for an evaluation copy of the *Cinemanía* package, cautioning that we were curious whether this was a serious reference tool, or a game-like program.

Were we surprised!

*Cinemanía* is very serious reference material. In the developing format of the CD-ROM, it is the precursor of a new wave of software which require a great volume of data. The CD-ROM can contain hundreds of megabytes of data, making it ideal for such applications as encyclopedias, reference materials and databases.

In order to test the product, it was time for a new computer. After some shopping, we bought a multimedia Everdata 386DX-33 machine from an outlet in Mississauga. Fitted with CD-ROM drive and a Sound Galaxy board, it has everything necessary to evaluate this harbinger of program distribution for the future.

The key to the depth of the programming are the newly refined principles of OLE (Object Linking and Embedding). With these, the developers have been able to integrate sound clips along with high quality stills from many of the principle movies in the listings.

The *Cinemanía* files total over 200 megabytes, drawing on such sources as Leonard Maltin's **Movie and Video Guide 1992**, Baseline's **Encyclopedia of Film** and the entertainment industry's **Motion Picture Guide**. There are capsule reviews on over 19,000 films, and detailed reviews on over 745. Many of these detailed reviews often are accompanied by a still from the movie, cast lists, credits, biographies, detailed synopses, running time and much more. Movies are rated according to the MPAA system.

It is possible to search for movies of a particular genre, having particular cast members, or even within a range of years and ratings. There is a list builder within the program, and information can be copied from the database into new files the user creates.

As an introduction to the CD-ROM, it is also an excellent choice. Reasonably priced at \$79.00, it makes use of all forms of media available on the CD-ROM. There are 300 stills and over 1,000 portraits of stars and directors which are displayed according to the selected function of the system. As well, there are sound bites from 100 films, which are reproduced through a Sound Blaster compatible audio card.

As mentioned earlier, this is a well executed assemblage of reference material. We see a place for it in television programming and continuity offices, as well as the offices of newspapers producing television supplements. We use it to produce detailed listing pages for a binder of the films we have on tape. The results are much more extensive than we have been able to produce previously.

The ultimate companion for the diehard movie buff such as myself.

By the way, we have nothing but good things to say about Everdata computers. The parent company, SDT Computers in Concord outside Toronto, are assembling fine packaged systems at affordable prices, and with good technical support. They have a number of outlets across Canada.

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## Phil Stone Interviews Dick Smyth

Concluded from page 42 —

Muskoka with a passion, and this is where he probably will spend a great deal of his time in the future. "I don't want to ever take my feet out of Toronto", Dick said, "because my job affords me too much fun. I can't see myself retiring from CFTR — I get impatient to write and be on air when I'm on vacation. I get up a 3 a.m. to be at the office at 4 each morning and this takes a lot of commitment. Obviously, I love my work. Perhaps in the future I may slow up somewhat so I can do more travelling. In the meantime, I am having fun doing just what I am doing".

"My dentist once asked me how I could do the same thing every day. This from a guy who faces each day looking into people's mouths. But each of us gets our satisfaction in our own way".

At the beginning of this interview we reminded Dick that he had said that he loves radio like a man loves a woman. We asked him, what would you say to students today? "Unless you are willing to give 110 percent, unless you would rather work in radio than eat, you are in the wrong business. Stay out of it".

*Phil Stone is a well-known broadcaster, writer and educator. His Phil Stone Report and Broadcast Beat are regular BT features.*

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## THE PHIL STONE REPORT

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Back when we were running the Radio Broadcasting Course at Humber College, we invited many of our established friends to share their radio experiences and advice with our students. One guest speaker was the prominent newsman and commentator from CFTR Toronto, Dick Smyth. We always remember his first words: "I want to tell you," he said to the students in his big voice, "that I love radio like a man loves a woman."

Now, after some 36 years in the medium, does he still feel the same way? "Yes," he replied, "I do." People ask me why I get up at three in the morning to go to work and it's because I enjoy, I have a ball, I still get a big kick out of it."

Dick started in radio in the mid '50s while he was still in college, working at a summer job in Cornwall at CKSF (now CJSS). While attending university in Montreal, he worked weekends in Cornwall. "I was able to travel free because my father was with the railway. Yep, there were 'freebees' even in those days. So I took the train from Montreal to Cornwall each weekend, until I landed a full-time job the following year."

In the beginning of his radio career, Dick said, "I sort of fell into news at CKLW in Windsor. However, in those days when I worked in Cornwall, you got a job as an announcer, doing everything that was required. When I moved to Windsor, I did all kinds of things, including sitting in the studio on Sunday mornings listening to all the religious programs. Every 30 minutes, I'd say 'This is CKLW Windsor/Detroit.' I started doing early morning news and my career as a news man really developed from that." Dick felt from the start there was a link between him and news; it was, he said, 'My sort of thing.' If I had gone into the music area, I don't think I would have stayed in the business. I felt at home with news and commentary."

Dick enjoyed writing opinion pieces — he found it a great outlet for his creative juices, an opportunity to sit down and put something together on paper. This realization, he said, came late to him in his career. "Some people can sit down at the piano and compose beautiful music and I envy them. I sit down at my processor and find it very easy and enjoyable to write my copy, unlike some others who sweat bullets

when they have to write something. I don't mean to boast, but I believe I have a talent that found a niche in radio".

Dick's career as a commentator vis-à-vis newsman began at CKLW-FM, which he said — tongue in cheek — "Nobody listened to in those days". When Bill Drylie, the provocative commentator on CHUM passed away, they were looking for a replacement and hired Dick Smyth. It was here that his reputation gained widespread prominence. It became what he is best known for.

Dick said he was outspoken right from the beginning. "While I got into trouble a few times, I didn't go out of my way for that to happen, I tend to be blunt and honest. I never take a position I don't believe in, that would be false. I like to say what I think — I do it in my personal life, and I like to do it on the air".

### *An Interview with newsman Dick Smyth*

His early work on television, for example on CITY-TV, served to enhance Dick's reputation and gave him a wider audience on radio in the Toronto market.

When asked if he has been compared to Vancouver's legendary Jack Webster, he replied, "I would be very flattered if people thought of me in that context. Some think I am in the same category as Gordon Sinclair and I consider that a great compliment because, as you know, Sinclair was a giant in his field and a superb communicator."

We talked about Webster, Sinclair and Smyth; a different generation than what is coming out of college broadcasting courses at Humber, Centennial and other schools. Will the young people of today editorialize like their predecessors? "I hope so, but I don't think so", said Dick, because the business is getting too bland. It's been taken over by the beancounters. We editorialists are a dying breed. People who give opinions, who are provocative, who make radio worth listening to, with very few exceptions in Canada, are scarce. Radio, and to a certain extent television, is like oat bran or oatmeal — there is nothing to it. The excitement of the business has been lost, the magic is missing, gone, and that is most unfortunate. There is too much lacklustre, wallpaper music,

and much as I love radio, I find it hard to listen to."

Dick thoroughly endorses the entry of women into radio news and is happy to see them in positions of authority, particularly in his company, Rogers Broadcasting, where they are no longer just a token entity.

Looking at the future for young people seeking a career in radio news, unlike television, Dick feels there is little opportunity because more and more stations are focussing on music to meet young listeners' preferences. Dick feels, despite the failure of CKO, there ought to be an all-news station in Toronto. He feels CKO would have worked much better had it been on AM rather than on FM, which is not generally considered an information outlet. He feels that radio is dying to a large extent. In the days ahead, the music stations will have less news and perhaps we will then obtain an all-news station again. "I feel this (the trend to less news) is wrong, because I think all stations should carry news, maybe some more than others. All stations need news, it is vital. When is the last time you heard a Toronto station actually break a story? This situation is not healthy."

It is Dick's opinion that, despite the recession, radio is here to stay. "However, when it comes to AM radio, one of the theories is that when we get into digital radio the distinction between AM and FM radio will vanish. I think that one of the big mistakes we made initially was drawing the distinction between the two.

Dick believes we need government regulations of some kind and supports the efforts of the CRTC. "I rather admire what Pierre Juneau did," he said, "when he was in there. And also Harry Boyle. They had the best interests of the country at heart. The CRTC seems a little toothless right now, and becoming too much of a rubber stamp." When we discussed the proposed CRTC ruling covering the hiring of minorities by stations with over 100 employees, Dick was in accord. Primarily his feeling is that the best people be hired, regardless of race, color, creed, gender or physical disability.

Hanging up his microphone in the near future is not on Dick's agenda. He recently purchased a home in Bracebridge Ontario, because he loves

— please turn to page 40