EDITOR’S NOTE: Since this is the first edition since the Christmas - New Year’s break, I’m playing catch-up with some of the information you’ll be reading this week. Don’t forget to keep us in mind for news about your operation. And if you’ve got something you want to tell me right now, click right HERE!

REVOLVING DOOR: Paul Ski, after 30 years with the CHUM Radio Group – most recently as President – has become the CEO of the Rogers Broadcasting radio division. Ski succeeds Gary Miles, retiring after 20 years of service. Duff Roman, VP, Regulatory Affairs at CHUM Ltd., takes over Ski’s position on an interim basis until a successor can be found... Nigel Fuller retired January 4 after 31 years with CHUM Television. His career began in sales at CKVR Barrie and included stops at ATV Halifax as GSM as well as The New RO (now A Channel Ottawa) as VP/GM. His last role was as VP of Conventional Television for CHUM’s Ontario stations including all the A Channels, Citytv and CP24 Toronto... Friends and colleagues of Don Wittman gathered in Winnipeg Tuesday to pay tribute to the Sportscaster. Wittman, 71, is retiring; he has terminal cancer. He was inducted into CBC’s Sports Hall of Fame Tuesday in a private ceremony. For decades, Wittman has been the voice of curling on the CBC, covering the Olympic Games, the Brier, the Tournament of Hearts, the World Championships and numerous other tournaments... Charlee Morgan, Mid-day Personality at Lite 96 (CHFM-FM) Calgary, has been tapped to be the Morning Show Host at CLEAR FM Vancouver, the city’s first female stand-alone radio host... Andrew Stewart is now APD at C103/XL96 Moncton. He also moves to afternoon Drive at C103. Stewart has been with C103 since its launch 20 years ago... Brad Muir has been promoted to Director of Programming for Newcap New Brunswick. Muir has been with the company since the early ‘90s with stops at Halifax and Edmonton. He is responsible for programming and ratings growth for C103/ XL96 Moncton and FRED-FM Fredericton... Jim Dunlop adds Market Sales Manager responsible for Rogers Broadcasting, Alberta and Manitoba (Edmonton, Winnipeg, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge...
General Manager, CKRW The Rush

CKRW broadcasts into several Yukon communities, with the station in Whitehorse. Never been to Whitehorse? This capital city has a vibrant arts community as well as plenty of organized sports along with all the outdoor adventure you can imagine for a spot surrounded by pristine wilderness.

Clean air, coffee shops, art galleries, loads of outdoor activities, the state-of-the-art Canada Games Centre (host of the 2007 Canada Winter Games) …and no commute!

Now for the job:
As GM of this AM/FM simulcast station, the successful candidate will oversee all aspects of business, from planning and managing budgets to occasionally covering for other station staff. Competitive compensation package including annual performance bonus and paid benefits package.

Request job description or forward resume in confidence to:

Jennifer Johnstone
hr@ckrw.com
CKRW The Rush
203 - 4103 4th Av
Whitehorse YT Y1A 1H6
867-668-6100 x 221

and Medicine Hat) to his duties. He retains his Calgary Radio Cluster Sales Manager position... Paul MacInnes has been appointed GSM at Z103.5 (CKHZ-FM) Halifax. MacInnes had been in new business development management with ATV/CHUM and CTV Atlantic Canada... New Chief Engineer at Corus Calgary is Greg Landgraf. He arrived from crosstown competitor Rogers Radio... Ian Slack is no longer with CTV Toronto. He began as a Reporter, then moved up to Assignment Editor, then to Supervising Producer for Eye on Toronto, to News Director and then to Supervising Producer, CTV Toronto. He had been with the Toronto station for 30 years... Dave Budge resigned as ND at Global Calgary in favour of becoming News Director for radio, TV and digital services at CBC Calgary. He began his new job Monday, Jan. 7. Mark Jan Vrem is in place as interim ND. Also at CBC Calgary, Richard Wood becomes the new Regional Manager of Production and Resources effective Jan. 21... After four years programming Citytv Winnipeg (formerly A-Channel) and more than 20 years in the broadcast industry, Glen Cassie has moved to the communications branch of the Manitoba provincial government... Gary Long, MD at 94X (CIRX) Prince George, is now PD/Morningman. He succeeds Brad Bregani who left for similar duties at radio in the Cayman Islands. Succeeding Long as MD is Don Graham who also takes on APD duties. New Promotions Director is Lindsey Andreza... Doug Lett has been appointed ND at CTV (CFQC-TV) Saskatoon. He had been the Assignment Editor... Jeff Little became CTV Calgary Managing Editor at CFCN-TV Jan. 1. He had been the Assignment Editor... Ben and Kerry, ex Morning co-Hosts at Jack FM Toronto have returned to mornings at Y108 (CJXY) Hamilton... Tyler Wold has returned to radio as the new Morning show host at Q99 (CIKT-FM) Grande Prairie. He steps in to succeed Crash and Mars who left to join Z99 Regina Jan 7 as afternoon drive Hosts... Carmen Early has been promoted to Promotions Director at CHUB-FM/CFDV-FM Red Deer... Michael Johnson, ex of Kathrein Scala, has become Regional Sales Manager for Dielectric Communications serving the western U.S.

RADIO: The CRTC is soliciting comment – by March 4 – on its broadcast of Hits by private FM’ers. The regulator is considering overhauling the 30-year-old rule prohibiting too many hits aired on FM... Launching on Monday (Jan. 14) is Mix 103.7 (CFVR-FM) Fort McMurray, owned by Regina-based Harvard Broadcasting. GM/GSM is Jason Huschi... In the U.S., radio revenue was down 6% in November, with local down 5% and national off 15%. The RAB’s revenue figures are based on approximately 150 U.S. markets. Wachovia analyst Marci Ryvicker says radio is anticipated to have “… another slow year, with political and nonspot revenue keeping the industry flat rather than down”... After seeing the RAB November numbers, BMO Capital Markets in the U.S. is warning investors off radio. Analyst Lee Westerfield has lowered his Q4 revenue and EBITDA estimates for Emmis, Clear Channel and CBS Radio. He has also cut his expectations for 2008 and 2009. Further, says Westerfield, he sees a danger that U.S. radio stocks, which fell significantly in 2007, could drop another 15-30% in 2008... The CRTC has approved applications by Rogers Broadcasting and Larche Communications for the two to swap CICX-FM Orillia for CICZ-FM Kitchener. Rogers had owned the Orillia station. Paul Larche’s company also owns CICZ-FM Midland, just up the road a few klicks from Orillia, and is setting up a new station in Sudbury.
GENERAL: Corus Entertainment says its profit for the quarter ended Nov. 30 amounted to 91 cents a diluted share, up from a year-ago $36.7 million or 85 cents a year earlier. Revenues were $214.8 million, up three per cent from $209.2 million. Corus shareholders have approved a proposed two-for-one stock split for its issued and outstanding Class A Participating Shares and Class B Non-Voting Participating Shares, effective as of the close of business on February 1. Further to an earlier news release about announced monthly dividends, the Board of Directors has resolved to reduce the dividends payable by 50% to reflect the stock split. Score Media Inc. reports first quarter net income was $148,000 compared to $871,000 last year. Revenue was $9.3 million, compared to $9.2 million in the prior year. Rogers Communications shares slid lower on Monday as investors showed little enthusiasm over the company's plan to double its annual dividend, focusing rather on weakening new subscriber adds at its wireless services division. Earlier, RCI issued an announcement boasting "solid" subscriber growth in its wireless and cable TV businesses while saying that it would double its annual dividend to $1 a share and make a $300-million stock buyback. The Emergency Measures Office of the Ontario Government and the Ontario Association of Broadcasters have finalized an agreement for OAB's Amber Alert database to be provided to EMO. This would allow participating stations to receive text, e-mail and/or fax ALERT ONTARIO BULLETINS. Such bulletins would advise of disasters, terrorism, nuclear accidents, pandemics and so on. There will be no phone contact for these messages. The EMO and the OAB will test the system on Tuesday Jan. 15 at approximately 10 a.m. Stations are asked to monitor their e-mails and fax machines and then to respond to the EMO at the address provided with the time they received the test alert. CBC/Radio-Canada says it has beefed up its Access to Information Office to respond to a greater-than-anticipated volume of requests in its first three months under the Access to Information Act. Since Sept. 1, the public broadcaster has received roughly 500 requests. Rogers Media has signed a licencing agreement with BzzAgent of Boston for it to gain exclusive rights to sell access to BzzAgent's services in Canada. BzzAgent specializes in word-of-mouth marketing campaigns in which unpaid consumers volunteer to discuss products and services with members of their social circles. According to the company, it has approximately 36,000 of these volunteers in Canada.

TV/FILM: The CRTC approved CanWest MediaWorks' acquisition of the broadcasting channels owned by Alliance Atlantis Broadcasting. The analog specialty channels are: Food Network Canada; HGTV Canada; Historia (50% interest); History Television; The Score (minority interest); Séries+ (50% interest); Slice (formerly The Life Network) and Showcase. Category 1 channels acquired are: Discovery Health Network; Independent Film Channel; and, ONE: The Body, Mind and Spirit Channel (minority interest). Category 2 channels are: BBC Canada; BBC Kids; D.I.Y. Television; Fine Living; Girls TV; Military Television; National Geographic Channel; Parent TV; Scream (minority interest); Showcase Action; Showcase Diva; and, ZTV... Some of the Category 2 channels have yet to be launched. Online content available only within the U.S. is wishful thinking. Even as American networks block international users because of licencing agreements, software is widely and easily available that circumvents "geoblocking". It has the potential to scuttle the business model Canadian broadcasters have with U.S. TV producers. Alan Sawyer, a media strategist with Two Solitudes Consulting, says if it catches on, Canadian broadcasters could lose a big chunk of their advertising revenue — another setback in what is becoming a contentious issue between broadcasters and TV executives still struggling with how to properly monetize traditional media in a digital world.

Happy New Radio Revenue Stream!
The internet presents a host of new revenue stream opportunities for your sales department.
The New Multi-media Selling, January 25th
Jim Taszarek of TAZ Media, Scottsdale Arizona, will reveal the web selling strategies which are bringing radio stations unforeseen new revenue streams and increased revenues from existing clients.
There are less than 30 seats left for this important revenue generating event! January 25, 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM, only $250 per person including lunch and refreshments.
email angela@versmedia.com to reserve your participation now.
Presented by Humber College's School of Media Studies and ENS Media Inc.
CBC’s sale of its international sales catalogue to Britain-based ContentFilm is drawing fire by people questioning why homegrown distributors weren’t invited to bid. The deal saw 135 titles and 700 hours of CBC’s international sales catalogue sold just days before Christmas. The deal allows ContentFilm to sell the rights to the CBC shows internationally. Robert Lantos, the Toronto film producer and part-owner of Toronto distributor Oasis International, said he would have jumped at the opportunity. Meanwhile, after the deal was struck, ContentFilm issued a news release saying Toronto-based Peace Arch Entertainment was buying ContentFilm, majority owned by U.S. multimillionaire Jeff Sagansky who is also Peace Arch’s interim CEO. The Peace Arch acquisition is slated to close at the end of March... Canada AM is expanding to six hours Jan. 28 with live broadcasts in every market and a new Western Anchor team based at a new Vancouver Studio. CTV says this is the first time a national North American morning show on a conventional network will be totally live across all time zones... Myanmar’s military junta rang in the New Year by dramatically raising the annual fee for TV satellite dishes – from $5 a year to $800, equivalent to about three times the annual salary of a public school teacher. The move by the hardline regime will limit access to foreign news channels that beamed in global criticism of its recent crackdown on pro-democracy protests... “Sure, we’re a religious organization but is there a law against that?” asks Roger May, the owner of a Charlottetown bookstore that sells religious material. CBC-TV Charlottetown has declined airing his commercial because of the ad’s final phrase: What goes into a mind, comes out in a life. CBC advertising standards include that advocacy advertisements for or on behalf of religious organizations must not proselytize nor promote religious ideologies or doctrines. May argues that the phrase is a general statement and not akin to ‘If you don’t go to church, you are all going to hell.’ CBC maintains that there is - in context - a religious component to the ad.

IGN-OFFS: Robert L’Herbier, 86, at Cité de la santé hospital in Laval after a lengthy illness. A singer/songwriter who became the original PD at CFTM Montreal (now TVA), the city’s first private French-language TV station, his career began in 1941 at CHLT Sherbrooke. Robert L’Herbier was inducted into the Canadian Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 1991. CRTC Vice-Chair, Broadcasting Michel Arpin says L’Herbier played a key role in creating the Quebec Star System. “If it hadn’t been for Robert L’Herbier’s creativity and leadership, TVA Group would not be what it is today”... Milt Dunnell, 102, in Toronto. The former Toronto Star Sports Editor was an honoured member of Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame, the Hockey Hall of Fame, the Hockey Horse Racing Hall of Fame and the Football Reporters of Canada Hall of Fame. Known for his deft turn of phrase and encyclopedic breadth of experience, Dunnell also freelanced as a broadcaster, most notably at CFRB Toronto well into the late ’70s.

LOOKING: CKRW The Rush Whitehorse seeks a GM. See the ad on Page 2... CHUM Vancouver seeks a Rising Star. See the ad on Page 4... Other jobs we’ve heard about include FM96 (CFPL-FM) London - Retail Sales Manager; and, CKNX Wingham - Newscaster/Reporter.
GENERAL: The CRTC has imposed tighter rules on media ownership, ruling that any person or entity may only own two of the three different types of outlets – radio, TV or newspapers – in a single market. Also being limited is ownership of broadcasting licences to ensure that any one party doesn’t control more than 45% of the total TV audience share because of a buy. The 45% TV audience cap, not including any gains that can be made without buying assets, upset Glenn O’Farrell, President/CEO of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters. He says the CAB will encourage the Commission to reconsider the approach and hopefully call for comments. The CRTC also won’t approve transactions between cable and satellite companies which, it says, would result in one group effectively controlling the delivery of programming in a market. Commission Chair Konrad Von Finckenstein said Tuesday’s restrictions will not apply retroactively. To be clear, companies are allowed to own: only one TV station per language in a single market; two AM and two FM radio stations in the same language in large markets; and, three radio stations, but only two per frequency band, in smaller markets. There are no restrictions on the number of newspapers a company can own.

Ian Morrison of the group Friends of Canadian Broadcasting said: “The CRTC is recognizing that as a result of media concentration, there are levels of concentration that could well pose a threat to diversity and, therefore, democracy.” Lining up against the decision are the Directors Guild of Canada, the Canadian Media Guild and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union. The Canadian Media Guild said the CRTC had “blown a chance” with its ruling to address media concentration in Canada. “There’s nothing new in this,” it says. “This essentially embodies the status quo”...

CanWest Global Communications says higher interest charges and restructuring costs dragged down its fiscal first-quarter net earnings by more than a third to $41 million, well below analyst estimates. Its earnings for the three months ended Nov. 30 were 23 cents per share, down 38% from $66 million or 37 cents per share in the same period last year. CanWest reported revenues of $868 million in the quarter, up 8% from $805 million in the year-earlier period... In another development, the company has shortened its name, rebranding to Canwest. Canwest says the shortened name is meant to “affirm a common purpose amongst its properties and reflect the company’s vision for the future”... Health Canada’s new
IGN-OFFS: John Eddy, 56, in Florida of cancer. Eddy, a VP at Astral Media Radio Atlantic, was based in Fredericton where he’d been a radio community member for over 15 years, beginning with CFNB in the 90s. He had been diagnosed with cancer eight months ago... Marvin Crouch, 76, in Ottawa of heart disease. Crouch had, for many years, owned and operated Tennaplex Systems of Nepean, handling the Kathrein lines of FM and TV antennas. He designed and installed many of the TV and FM antenna systems still in use in Canada today.

EVOLVING DOOR: Brad Phillips, Regional VP at Rogers-owned Citytv Vancouver, leaves that position today (Jan. 18) after arriving there in 2001 as VP/GM of CHUM-owned CKVU-TV which became a Citytv-branded station. Phillips began with CHUM in 1996 as PD at CHUM AM/FM Toronto. Two years later, he was promoted to VP/GM of those stations... Terry David Mulligan, 65, is suing CTV for wrongful dismissal. Mulligan claims he was fired without cause, given inadequate notice and discriminated against on the basis of his age. He had been with CHUM Ltd. for 24 years when the company was taken over by CTV last September. He was fired Nov. 19, with his last day of work Dec. 31 and with six-months’ severance... Terry Williams, the long-time PD at C100/CJCH Halifax, is no longer with the CHUM Radio operation. No successor has been determined yet... Steve Heintz, ex of Rogers Radio Calgary, is new Retail Sales Manager at Corus Radio Calgary. He began Jan. 14, succeeding Rick Burgess who went to Rawlco Calgary as GSM... Peter Mallette, the veteran CTV Halifax Anchor/Reporter, has been promoted to Assistant News Director at CTV Atlantic. He steps aside from his on-air duties... Linda Nguyen has joined CTS Edmonton (Crossroads Television System) as the new Associate Producer and Host of the station’s promotional interstitial, Star Report. She had been a Reporter with Global News Saskatoon... Astral Media TVPlus has appointed Allan Hobb to National Account Manager at its new Toronto office. Heather Athanasiou has been appointed Sales Supervisor and Debbie Golden has been appointed Sales Coordinator... Willard Cowan is taking early retirement after 15 years as VP/GM of The Shopping Channel in Toronto. Cowan began his career as a Sales Rep at the old Foster Hewitt station, CKFH Toronto, in 1967... Janet Gillespie is the new VP, Marketing at XM Canada. Gillespie was most recently with Palm Canada as Director of Marketing. Donald McKenzie, the Sr. VP, Sales & Marketing, departed XM Jan. 11... Anthony Cicione has joined The Fight Network in Toronto as Sr VP Programming and Production. Most recently, Cicione was VP of Programming and Production at The Score... Marlene Lone is new Creative Director/Production Manager at SUN TV (CKXT) Toronto. Lone arrived from Rogers Television where she was the Acting Director of Creative Services... Paul O’Neil, ex Station Manager/Morning Show Host at Newcap’s newly-launched Big Dog (CILB-FM) Lac La Biche, has moved to Regina as AP/MD at the yet-to-be-launched Astral Media Radio station... Long-time Canadian Women in Communications staffer Simone Bowen has been promoted to Manager of Operations... Newcap Television Lloydminster Sports Director Kelly Row is moving to CFJC-TV Kamloops as a Sports Reporter. As well, late Night Sports Anchor Jonathan Glasgow is also leaving the Newcap station, bound for...
employment outside the industry... New Drive Announcer at JACK FM Calgary is Dug Joy, ex of BOB FM Winnipeg. He succeeds Beesley, who joined the morning show at the soon to launch Rawico station in Calgary.

TV/FILM: Several bids to purchase financially troubled TQS, the French-language TV network based in Montreal, might come forward but right now, none are on the table. That information was provided to a Quebec judge yesterday (Wednesday) before he granted a 45-day extension of creditor protection.

Of the nine groups that have signed confidentiality agreements to access information, two have submitted letters of interest. A third is expected by Friday. There had been talk on Tuesday that Rogers Communications would buy the TQS TV stations in Montreal and Quebec City while Radio Nord would add TQS regional stations (Saguenay, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivieres, and affiliates in Gatineau-Ottawa, Val-d’Or-Rouyn-Noranda, Rimouski and Riviere-du-Loup) to the ones it manages in Outaouais and Abitibi-Temiscamingue. Majority-owned by Cogeco (60%), TQS was placed under creditor protection last month. CTVglobemedia owns the remaining 40%... Meanwhile, Quebec Culture Minister Christine St-Pierre says Radio-Canada will have to shoulder much of the blame if the TQS television network is forced to shut its doors. St-Pierre, a former Radio-Canada Reporter, told a Quebec City gathering that if Cogeco decides to pull the plug on TQS, “we’ll find a Radio-Canada bullet close to the heart.” TQS says it is being negatively affected by the termination of an affiliation agreement for three stations with the French-language service of CBC. Radio-Canada says the Minister’s remarks were surprising given that the market conditions have more to do with TQS’s precarious financial footing. TQS lost about $5 million in 2006 and owes $68 million, including broadcast licensing fees... Jim Shaw, President of Shaw Communications, says he'll be giving the CRTC an earful next month when it holds hearings into the future of the Canadian Television Fund. In an interview after his company’s annual general meeting in Calgary last week, Shaw said he thinks “... the thing’s broken and has no accountability.” The $290 million fund, behind shows such as Trailer Park Boys and Little Mosque on the Prairie, saw Shaw and Videotron suspend their payments last winter and demand the federal review... Canwest CEO Leonard Asper says stockpiled programs will help tide over Global and E! stations as they face the continuing U.S. writers’ strike. There have been fears that viewers will abandon their regular TV habits because new episodes aren’t available but American advertisers say they are likely to hold onto nearly all the TV inventory they bought in the upfront for the second quarter even though lower ratings and program scheds are radically different than presented last May. This week most advertisers will have to declare how much they’ll actually buy of the second-quarter advertising they agreed to take in the upfront. They have an option to cancel about 25% of that commitment but buyers say that if they opt out of their commitment, they face few alternatives and much higher prices... It’s no secret that many Americans, when news is ultra important to them, will – instead of watching the home-grown versions – go to Canadian and British broadcasts. A new poll backs up that anecdotal evidence by slamming the U.S. news media on believability. The Sacred Heart University study found that just 19.6% of Americans surveyed say they believe all or most of media news reporting. That’s down from 27.4% in 2003. The perception is growing among Americans that the news media attempts to influence public opinion -- from 79.3% strongly or somewhat agreeing in 2003 to 87.6% in 2007. Curiously, Americans surveyed in the poll say that the most trusted national TV outlets, in descending order, included: Fox News (27.0%); CNN (14.6%); NBC News (10.90%); ABC News (7.0%); local news (6.9%); CBS News (6.8%); MSNBC (4.0%); PBS News (3.0%); and, CNBC (0.6%)... CP24 Toronto on Monday began offering up the city’s first local news at 5 p.m. Live At 5 is co-hosted by Ann Rohmer and George Lagogianes. Bob McLaughlin is VP/GM of CP24... Former CBS News Anchor Dan Rather’s $70 million lawsuit against the network continues in the discovery phase until a Jan. 23 conference among the involved parties, after a judge deferred ruling on CBS’ motion to have the case dismissed. In the suit, Rather claims he became the “scapegoat” for a questionable report on U.S. President George W. Bush’s National Guard service... Specialty channel CosmoTV launches Feb. 14. The hype from Corpus Entertainment says the channel “offers women a sizzling backstage pass to men, style and sex...” OWN (Oprah Winfrey Network) will debut next year in nearly 70 million American homes – about two-thirds of U.S. homes with TV equipped with cable and satellite. It’s part of a deal with Discovery Communications to replace the U.S. Discovery Health Channel. A channel with the same name is operated in Canada by Canwest but information on a name change here has not been made available.

RADIO: Astral Media reports its fiscal first quarter 2008 profits for the three months ended Nov. 30 rose 15% to $37.5 million or 69 cents a share from $32.6 million or 62 cents during the same period last year. Astral benefitted from the acquisition of Standard Radio in late October. Consolidated revenues rose 20% to $198.7 million from $165.1 million... Canadian Satellite Radio Holdings, operator of XM Canada, says it had a quarterly loss of $16.2-million as revenue more than doubled compared with a year ago. The loss amounts to 34 cents a share for the three months ended Nov. 30, compared with the loss of $23.9-million or 50 cents a share last year. Quarterly revenue was $8.1-million, up from $3.8-million last year... CBC Radio web pages will soon have display banners; ads said to be necessary to cover the increasing costs for streaming CBC Radio online and producing and distributing podcasts. In a memo to staff this week, CBC Radio head Jennifer McGuire said that
as a start-up strategy the current system served well. But, she wrote, it’s not sustainable nor a formula for growth. Traditionally, CBC Radio has been commercial-free but last year, it began adding short sponsorship messages at the beginning of some of the 54 podcasts it produces... There will not be a <i>Rogers Radio</i> station in Parry Sound, at least not now. The <i>CRTC</i> turned down Rogers’ application for a 10,000 watt FM’er that would program a Rock format because the town and surrounding area’s year-round population base is too small to support both it and the long-time heritage station, <i>The Moose (CKLP-FM)</i>. Besides, said the Commission, 72% of commercial radio tuning in the Parry Sound District is to out-of-market stations, with <i>Rogers North Bay (CKFX-FM/CKAT/CHUR-FM)</i> now getting almost 41% of the tuning by 12+ Parry Sound listeners... <b>Dan O’Day</b>, internationally known lecturer on all things radio, will be the morning host March 6 at the <i>Radio Marketing Bureau’s Crystal Awards</i> as he delivers “Maximum Impact Radio”, challenging creative writers, producers and advertisers to engage themselves in generating superior and effective radio spots. Later, radio and TV comedienne <b>Judy Croon</b> is Host of the Crystal Awards which begins with a gourmet lunch. Click <a>www.rmb.ca</a> for info. The Crystals are at the Royal York Hotel, along with Canadian Music Week... The <i>New York Festivals</i> has issued its call for entries for the <i>2008 International Radio Broadcasting Awards. Deadline is March 17. Details by clicking: http://www.newyorkfestivals.com/main.taf?p=2,7</i>... At the <i>2008 International Consumer Electronics Show</i> in Las Vegas, reports <i>Fortune Small Business</i>, the next wave of hot gadgets will be radio. Not iPod portables, says the publication, but rather “big, expensive desktop radios.” Radio’s comeback, if you will, is attributable to the absence of big news from the show. Suddenly important, says the publication, is that there’s a healthy niche of quality radios created by <b>Bose Corp., Cambridge Sound Works</b>, and <b>Tivoli Audio</b>, among others. Radio is taking advantage of the public’s growing hatred for complex electronics. Supporting that take on consumer opinion, one manufacturer says: “We are betting that a beautiful looking, beautifully sounding radio will be a rifle shot in the market. Even better, it only has three buttons. Anybody can run it.” <b>Opinion:</b> Canada’s private broadcasters are in the business of selling advertising. How can commercial-free periods be a boon to business? Saying “We’ll be back after the break” should be a firing offense. Stop regarding commercials as interruptions rather than as part of the overall program flow. Stations are on the air a full 60-minutes an hour. As such, you’d expect an hour’s worth of seamless programming, including commercials. Perhaps sales people should question whether their clients are getting value for a 30-second spot crammed into a stop set (why are they called that?). Nor should we promote “commercial free”. It’s negative, akin to a butcher shop promoting vegetarianism or a billboard company planting trees in front of its signs. – <b>Dick Smyth</b> (Concise opinion on Canadian broadcasting is welcome. Click <a>HERE</a>.)

**LOOKING:** <b>Global Calgary</b> seeks a News Director. See the details in the ad on Page 2... Other jobs we’ve heard about include <b>PGTV Prince George</b> - Marketing Representative; <b>Newcap Lloydminster</b> - Senior Sports Anchor; <b>S-VOX Toronto</b> – General Counsel/Board Secretary; <b>Alliance Atlantis Toronto</b> – Director, Creative & Production, Digital Media - a Broadcast Technician (Transmission Services) - and a Broadcast Technician (Post & Studio Engineering Services); <b>CTV Ottawa</b> – Human Resources Manager; <b>CTV Toronto</b> – Senior Producer of News (CP24) - a Promo Producer (TSN) - and a Director, Program Planning; <b>CTV Calgary</b> – Assignment Editor; <b>CBC Toronto</b> – Executive in Charge of Production (Factual Entertainment) and a Chief Copy Editor (CBC.ca); <b>CHEX Television Peterborough</b> – Sales Manager; <b>Big West Country (CIBW-FM) Drayton Valley</b> – Morning Show Host; <b>Astral Media Radio Fort St. John</b> – Morning Show Host; and, <b>The Beat 94.5 Vancouver</b> – Retail Sales Manager.

**NEW SUBSCRIBERS THIS WEEK INCLUDE:** Joanna Newman, <b>BC Children’s Hospital Foundation</b>, Vancouver. Welcome!
If you have a passion for news, the Christian radio format, and at least two years experience we want to hear from you!

If you have an up-beat read, love to get out in the community, develop relationships with local dignitaries, work the phones and dig for important relevant local news, you are just what we need. LIFE 100.3 is a contemporary Christian Hot A/C station located in Barrie but reaches right across Central Ontario thanks to our repeaters in Owen Sound, Huntsville, and Peterborough.

Send your tape/cd/mp3 and cover letter/resume to:

Steve Jones, Program Director
LIFE 100.3
115 Bell Farm Road, Suite 111
Barrie ON  L4M 4Y5
or click: steve@lifeonline.fm
TV/FILM: Toronto television distributor Oasis International alleges that CBC intentionally withheld plans to sell a vast portion of the rights to its TV catalogue to a foreign buyer. But CBC Exec VP of English Services Richard Stursberg, in a letter to Oasis, said Fireworks International made the approach; that the Corp. had to move quickly; and that it didn't have time for an auction. International rights to roughly 700 hours of CBC programming were sold to Fireworks, owned by ContentFilm. The problem according to Oasis President Peter Emerson is that he met with CBC Exec Director Fred Fuchs Nov. 15 to discuss the distribution of CBC shows and was told nothing of the interest in selling the international rights. Meanwhile, Canadian Film and TV Producers Association President Guy Mayson, in a letter to CBC Chair Timothy Casgrain, asks the board to reject the deal... The CRTC has approved a bid for a 24-hour cable service devoted to finding escaped convicts, parolees-at-large and abducted children. Montreal businessman Vincent Géracitano, in the face of steep opposition from cable operators, won the right to operate French channel Avis de Recherche as a must-carry channel in Quebec. Cable and satellite subs will have a few cents added to their bills. Up until now, Géracitano, who mortgaged his home to launch the channel three years ago, was forced to pay Vidéotron more than $15,000 a month to carry the service. The Commission is allowing the company to charge six cents a month per cable or satellite subs, roughly $1 million a year for the channel... Canwest has final CRTC approval for the acquisition of Alliance Atlantis’s broadcast assets. Conditions had been set in the Dec. 20 preliminary approval which, says Canwest, have now been met... Astral Media has committed $150,000 for the launch of a new scholarship program with the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival. The Astral Media Emerging Documentary Filmmakers Scholarship Program will allow 25 up-and-coming filmmakers from Quebec and B.C. to take part participate in professional and creative development opportunities at this year’s Hot Docs Festival and Conference (April 17-27)... The Canadian Olympic Committee says it has applied for English channel three years ago, was forced to pay $15,000 a month to carry the service. The Commission is allowing the company to charge six cents a month per cable or satellite subs, roughly $1 million a year for the channel... Canwest has final CRTC approval for the acquisition of Alliance Atlantis’s broadcast assets. Conditions had been set in the Dec. 20 preliminary approval which, says Canwest, have now been met... Astral Media has committed $150,000 for the launch of a new scholarship program with the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival. The Astral Media Emerging Documentary Filmmakers Scholarship Program will allow 25 up-and-coming filmmakers from Quebec and B.C. to take part participate in professional and creative development opportunities at this year’s Hot Docs Festival and Conference (April 17-27)... The Canadian Olympic Committee says it has applied for English and French TV channels that would show original programming focused solely on amateur competition in the hope of raising money for amateur sport. The COC is said to be aiming for mandatory carriage on a digital channel, charging subs 60 cents a month... Actress Diane Keaton dropped an f-bomb during an interview with Diane Sawyer on ABC’s Good Morning America. It went live in the east last week but was bleeped in western time zones. Now, the Parents Television Council is calling for punitive action against ABC and another incident it cited -- raised middle fingers during a segment of CBS’s 60 Minutes. PTC has called on its membership to file FCC complaints. FCC indecency policies led to a lawsuit by Fox Television which was won at the circuit court level by Fox. And right now, the U.S. Supreme Court is deciding if it will hear an appeal from the government... Coincidentally, the FCC just released a report on the top areas of consumer inquiries and complaints during the first half of 2007. Not surprisingly, the majority related to indecency. Of 151,008 complaints about radio and TV programming, 149,457 related to indecency... In what’s seen as a step toward ending a 12-week walkout, Hollywood’s striking writers have dropped demands for extended jurisdiction over reality and animation work and agreed to extend informal talks with Hollywood production companies. In a vote disclosed Tuesday, the West Coast guild also elected not to picket the Grammy ceremony, scheduled for a Feb. 10 broadcast. Formal negotiations between writers and producers broke off more than six weeks ago... Opinion: “Broadband is the new specialty. Specialty is the new conventional. Conventional is the new AM.” – Former CHUM Ltd. President Jay Switzer. (Concise opinion on Canadian broadcasting is welcome. Click HERE.)
**GENERAL: CBC-TV Ottawa** Reporter Krista Erickson has been transferred to Toronto after she was found to have fed questions to Liberal MP Pablo Rodriguez during the Mulroney-Schreiber hearings in December. CBC says her actions were “inappropriate”... Astral Media TVPlus is in a new Toronto office, sharing the same building with Astral Media Mix, Astral Media Radio and Astral Media Outdoor. New address is 2 St. Clair Avenue W., Suite 2000, Toronto M4V 1L6...

**REVOLVING DOOR: Jay Thomson** is new VP, Regulatory and Policy at the Canadian Association of Broadcasters in Ottawa. Most recently, he was Assistant VP, Broadband Policy with Telus. Previously, he’d been Legal Counsel and then Policy Analyst at the CRTC and VP, Legal and Regulatory Affairs at the Canadian Cable Television Association... MD Earle Mader is new PD at CHUM Radio Halifax (CJCH/C100). He succeeds former PD Terry Williams... Paul Sedik, who had been Director, National Sales-French Broadcasting at Alliance Atlantis is now National Sales Director at Astral Media TVPlus in Toronto... At Canwest Broadcasting, a new senior organizational structure which follows on the heels of the Alliance Atlantis acquisition. Updates include: Andrew Akman, AA’s former VP of corporate development and investor relations, is now Sr VP, Strategy and Chief Administrative Officer also overseeing Human Resources operations and policy, Information Technology, as well as Facilities & Administration at 121 Bloor Street (Toronto), the former AA headquarters; Charlotte Bell, Sr VP, Regulatory Affairs; Errol Da-Ré, former VP of sales at AA, is the Exec VP, Sales and leading the conventional and specialty TV sales teams, including the Marketing Ventures, Strategic Research, Digital Media and Revenue & Inventory Management teams; Michael French, CFO, leads the finance team for the combined business; Walter Levitt, most recently Canwest’s Sr VP, TV marketing and previously with AA, is Chief Marketing Officer and leads brand strategy, promotion and publicity, also overseeing content distribution and co-marketing with cable and satellite companies; David McCauley, Sr VP, Human Resources, continues to oversee human resources strategy and operations in the Broadcasting Division; Christine McGinley, Sr VP, Operations, oversees 15 Global and E! stations, as well as On-Air, Engineering and Technical services for the combined Broadcasting business; Barbara Williams, Exec VP, Content, has responsibility for the acquisition, production and scheduling of content for all Canwest conventional networks, specialty channels and digital media platforms; and, Steve Wyatt, Sr VP, News and Information, continues oversight of editorial and operations for all Global and E! news rooms, including Global National. The new nine-member executive team will report to CanWest MediaWorks President Kathy Dore... Donna Bevelander, Sr. VP Engineering & Operations at Alliance Atlantis will leave her post at the end of January, and AA Sr VP of content, John Gill, is gone...

**IGN-OFF: Don Wittman**, 71, in Winnipeg of cancer. For more than 40 years, Wittman’s smooth baritone voice called some of Canada’s most significant sports events. His was a familiar face on CBC-TV, doing play-by-play for Grey Cups and Stanley Cups, covering curling, golf and track and field. Importantly, Wittman was a fixture at both summer and winter Olympics.

**LOOKING: Life 100.3 Barrie** seeks an Anchor/Reporter. See the ad on Page 1 for contact info... Other jobs we’ve heard about this week include: CTV Toronto - Director of Programming (Animal Planet, Discovery Civilization, and Travel + Escape) and an Overnight Writer/Chase Producer (Canada AM); CTV Winnipeg - ENG Technician; CTV Ottawa - Account Executive; CTV British Columbia - Weekend Sports Anchor/Reporter; Global Television Toronto - Field Producer; Global Television Maritimes – Broadcast Technician; Newcap Television Llloydminster - Sports Anchor/Reporter, a Regional Reporter/Videographer and a Late Night Producer; CBC Toronto - Executive Producer (Fashion File); CBC Windsor – Reporter/Editor; CBC Regina - Senior Remote Area Transmitter Technologist; CBC Montreal – Unit Manager (French TV) and a Chief Editor, Television News; Corus Radio Edmonton – Creative Writer; Newcap Radio Thunder Bay – Creative Writer; and, imsradio Toronto – Business Development Account Manager.

**UPPLYLINES: Joseph Nunn** has rejoined LARCAN as International Sales Manager, succeeding Sean East who moved to Harris... CBC/Radio-Canada will implement a new Lawo central audio router and control system for its radio production and distribution in Montreal.
EVOLVING DOOR: Brad Phillips becomes VP/GM at Astral Media Radio Vancouver stations 95 Crave (CKZZ-FM) and CISL, effective Feb. 18. He succeeds Gary Russell who retires this week (be sure to read Russell’s Letter to the Editor in the Feb. edition of Broadcast Dialogue magazine). Phillips was most recently VP/GM of CHUM Television’s Citytv Vancouver (now owned by Rogers), with responsibility for A-Channel Victoria (now owned by CTVglobemedia)... Howard Slutsken is the Interim GM at Citytv (CKVU-TV) Vancouver, succeeding Phillips... Lesley Conway-Kelley, VP/GM at CHUM Radio Sales in Toronto, has left that post to join insradio in Toronto. Conway-Kelley, when she starts Feb. 18, will be Exec VP/GM... New Retail Sales Manager at CJOY/Magic FM Guelph is Ian Clutton. It’s a promotion for Clutton who’s been with the Corus stations for the past 20 years... Tony Bitonti of A-Channel (CKVR-TV) Barrie has been appointed Senior Producer at CP24 Toronto. He begins Feb. 11... Cindy Witten becomes the new head of the National Film Board of Canada’s English-language production Feb. 25. She had been VP Content, History Television at Alliance Atlantis. Witten succeeds Tom Perlmutter, who last spring was promoted to be NFB’s Chair and Government Film Commissioner... Long-time JACK FM (CICX-FM) Orillia ND Heather Thompson is no longer with the station. She is now employed in the local office of the area’s Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP)... At Citytv (CHMI-TV) Winnipeg, new Director of Local Content is Christine Ljungberg, the
Director of Operations. She’ll fill the departed Glen Cassie’s role until a permanent successor is found... Amanda Young, ex of Dave FM (CJDV-FM) Cambridge, becomes the new Promotions Manager at JACK FM (CKiS-FM) Calgary Feb. 11... The new Canwest Broadcasting Sales Leadership Team is comprised of: Catherine Bridgman, SVP, Marketing Ventures; Kathy Gardner, SVP, Integrated Media Research and Corporate Promotions; Jennifer Holgate, VP, Digital Sales; Brad Kubota, SVP, Revenue and Inventory Management; Lori Legault, VP, National Sales; and, Greg McLelland, also VP, National Sales who will oversee roughly half of the National ad sales teams. All will be reporting directly to Exec VP, Sales Errol Da-Ré... Following Canwest’s acquisition of Alliance Atlantis, direct reports to the newly integrated Content division headed by Barbara Williams, Exec VP, Content are: Steve Wyatt, Sr VP, News and Information; Phil Piazza, VP, Content Acquisitions; (in Content Creation) Karen Gelbart, Sr VP, Lifestyle Content and Christine Shipton, Sr VP, Drama and Factual Content; (in Content Scheduling) Daniel Eves, VP, Strategic Programming, Specialty and Zev Shalev, VP, Strategic Programming, E!, Andrew Janik, VP, Program Operations; Greg Treffry, VP, Partner Development and Content Strategy; and, Laura Tanner, Sr VP, Digital Media.

IGN-OFF: Brian Hill, 46, of injuries sustained in a car accident in the Peace Region of British Columbia. Hill, the News Director for Astral Media Radio at CHRX-FM/CKNL-FM Fort St. John, CJD/CJC-TV Dawson Creek and at CKRX-FM Fort Nelson, was in a taxi heading home from work when it was broadsided by a pick-up truck.

S 92.7 CKDR Dryden – a regional trading area of just 35,000 and a town with a population base of 7,700 – raised an average $1,121 a minute during a five-hour “Scan-A-Thon” at the local Regional Health Centre. Between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., morning Host Richard McCarty and ND Mike EbbeIing anchored the effort to raise the money earmarked for the purchase of a CT scan unit.

R ADIO: In the interests of promoting broadcast localism, the FCC is said to be considering a requirement that would see licensees “maintain a physical presence at each radio broadcasting facility during all hours of operation.” That would mean back to overnight talent on 24-hour American radio stations... The Norman Agency in Toronto has won the first Mobius Statuette presented to a podcast. The agency was recognized by the international Mobius Awards for advertising for three of its podcasts in the series, “The CBS Report,” created for Canadian Broadcast Sales... In case the FCC grants the merger of XM and Sirius, the HD Alliance wants a condition of licence to be that HD Radio technology be in all satellite radio receivers. And HD developer, iBiquity, would also like to see the FCC make a condition of merger the dropping of satellite companies’ exclusive arrangements with carmakers, suppliers and retailers and also be blocked from making any new exclusive deals.

T/FILE: CTVglobemedia and Canwest Broadcasting have told the CRTC that cable and satellite providers (broadcast distribution undertakings [BDUs]) should have to pay local TV broadcasters for distribution of over-the-air signals. CTVglobemedia says “compensation for carriage is essential” if the company is to sustain the level of service it provides to local communities and its contribution under the Broadcasting Act. Not surprisingly, the BDUs have a different take. Bell ExpressVu says there’d be a serious negative impact for consumers, program producers and specialty/pay services and “in fact, the only beneficiary would be the big broadcasting corporations themselves.” CTVglobemedia also argues that cable and satellite providers that wish to provide out-of-market local TV stations thus allowing time-shifting should be required to get permission from the original broadcaster... The Canadian Association of Broadcasters’ submission to the CRTC’s BDU hearing spotlights what it says private broadcasters want the Commission to address: Maintenance of the priority carriage requirements for all BDUs; confirmation of simultaneous substitution as an essential element of the BDU regulatory framework; adoption of new measures to resolve the distant signals issue once and for all; and, adoption of specific measures to ensure the prominence and permanence of the Small Market Local Programming Fund... CBC/Radio-Canada received Board approval to go ahead with the sale of international distribution rights and assets to Fireworks International. Financial terms have not been disclosed... At that same meeting, the CBC Board gave it’s approval to an application for a digital specialty channel devoted to amateur sports. CBC’s intention was announced just 24 hours after the Canadian Olympic Committee revealed that it had applied for English and French channels that would air original programming focused solely on amateur
competition... With the transition to digital TV set for Feb. 17/09 in the U.S., a new survey from Consumer Reports National Research Center shows 74% of respondents who said they knew about it were also living under major misconceptions about its impact. For example, over half (58%) believe all TVs will need a digital converter box to function, 48% believe that only digital TVs will work after 2009 and nearly one quarter (24%) believe they will need to throw away all of their analog sets. The poll also found that 36% of Americans living in households with TVs are entirely unaware of the transition... Astral Media has bragging rights this year in that all 23 Genie-nominated feature films – in every feature film award category – was backed by it. The 23 movies all received support from The Movie Network, Super Écran or Astral Media The Harold Greenberg Fund/Le Fonds Harold Greenberg. The 28th annual Genie Awards will be presented March 3 in Toronto... Corus Custom Networks has launched EyesOn TV in Western Canada. The long-form infomercial channel showcases full-product demonstrations on Shaw digital basic tier channels in Calgary, Edmonton, Victoria, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Whistler and Kenora... Fox has sold its last in-game Super Bowl ad spot for the Feb. 3 telecast. Network sources say advertisers are paying about $2.7 million per 30-second spot, with one sold for $3 million.

GENERAL: The new owner of Clear Channel Communications is a private equity consortium led by Bain Capital and Thomas H. Lee Partners. In its approval of the $27.4 billion buyout, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission concluded that there would be no harm done to competitors and that, in fact, the deal will improve competition. That’s because the ruling requires the company to divest grandfathered clusters in 42 separate broadcast markets that violate the Arbitron-based local market definition rules that the FCC adopted in 2003. Staying with the company are CC CEO Mark Mays and President/CFO Randall Mays. They’ll keep their seats on the new company’s 12-person board of directors... The winners of the 2008 Canadian Women in Communications Annual Awards are: Woman of the Year -- Ruth Kelly, President and Publisher of Venture Publishing; Mentor of the Year – Pat Solman, VP, Customer Care, Consumer Markets Division, MTS Allstream Inc.; Trailblazer of the Year – Julia Elvidge, President, Chipworks Inc.; Chapter Leader of the Year: Amélie Poulin, Human Resources Manager, Bell Canada; and, Employer of the Year: Golden West Broadcasting Ltd.

SUPPLYLINES: Geoff Smith, VP Sales at Delco Wire & Cable in Woodbridge is retiring at the end of February... Harris Corporation has appointed Syd Budhu as the Regional Sales Manager for Ontario, based in Toronto. Before joining Harris in 2005, Budhu was with Report on Business Television (now BNN) as Director of Technology... Richard Christensen, a former Regional Sales Manager with BSE Electronics in Toronto, is now VP Sales at MiraVid Inc. of Richmond Hill.

LOOKING: CHUM Radio Sales Toronto - General Manager; AVR/Magic 94.9/1450CFAB Kentville – Sales Manager; EZ Rock 97.3 (CJEZ-FM) Toronto – Assistant Promotions Director; Rogers Radio Halifax – Account Manager; Rogers Radio Squamish – Afternoon Drive Announcer; CKDQ Drumheller – Station Manager; CKSQ Stettler – Morning Announcer; CKUL Halifax – Morning Show Co-Host/Newsperson; Teletoon Toronto – Programming Assistant; CTV Toronto - Sr. Story Editor, Sportscentre; CTV Victoria - Human Resources Manager; CBC Toronto – Art Director, an Executive in Charge of Production, Factual Entertainment and a Director of Business Administration; TVO Toronto – Promo Producer/Director; CBC Calgary – Reporter/Editor; and, CBC Saint John – Reporter/Editor.