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GENERAL: Data compiled by *Harris/Decima* through its weekly omnibus survey shows that 66% of voters believe broadcasting and communications are too important to national security and cultural sovereignty to allow foreign control. The poll was commissioned by

A C T R A, the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union

of Canada, and *Friends of Canadian Broadcasting*. Results also showed that 82% of Canadians agree that it is important that the Canadian government work to maintain and build a culture and identity distinct from the US... *Astral Media* has amplified its dividend by 25% while predicting strong ongoing growth. The dividend rises to 50 cents annually from 40 cents, and the board also has approved renewal of a share buyback which would cancel as much as 2.6% of its stock... *CanWest Global* Executive VP **David Asper** has donated \$7.5-million to the *Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto*. The gift, described as the largest contribution ever made by an individual to a law school in Canada, will establish the *David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights*... The *Western Association of Broadcasters* seeks nominations for the 2008 WAB awards. These include Broadcaster of the Year, Honourary Life Membership and Gold Medal Awards for radio and TV. Details at <http://www.wab.ca/>... The man who killed *CJOH-TV Ottawa* Sportscaster **Brian Smith** back in 1995 is in trouble with US authorities after he punched an American border official in the face. **Jeffrey Arenburg**, who suffers from paranoid schizophrenia, was found not criminally responsible for Smith's slaying. He was released from a mental institution about a year ago. On Thursday of last week, he tried crossing the border on a bus to go shopping in Buffalo. But when document checks showed that he'd been denied entry to the US several times before, he punched the officer.

TV/FILM: The 44th annual *Christmas Daddies Telethon*, broadcast on *CTV* stations in the Maritime provinces, raised just over \$870,000 for toys, gifts, clothing and other necessities for needy families. Mainland Nova Scotia raised \$412,000, almost \$220,000 was donated in Cape Breton, New Brunswick raised \$180,000 and \$47,000 came from PEI. The rest came from outside the Maritimes. Organizers estimate 16,000 children will benefit... Halifax-based TV and film

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Jim Taszarek of *TAZ Media*, Scottsdale Arizona, facilitates this cutting edge, practical workshop for radio sales people, sales managers and general managers. He'll share web selling success stories and you'll learn how to develop your own *Multi-Media Sales System*.

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producer **DHX Media** has acquired Vancouver children's show maker **Studio B Productions Inc.** The deal is worth upwards of \$20 million. Studio B co-founders **Blair Peters** and **Chris Bartleman** have four-year contracts with DHX to remain as heads of the production subsidiary... Actor **Eric Peterson**, of *Corner Gas*, will receive the **2008 ACTRA Toronto Award of Excellence** during the **ACTRA Awards** in Toronto Feb. 29. Previous Award of Excellence winners include **Wendy Crewson**, **Gordon Pinsent**, **Sonja Smits**, **Paul Gross** and **Sarah Polley**... **TVO** is nearly a year into a technological transformation which includes a rebuild of its Toronto studios to a digital HD-ready production facility, and an introduction to a Digital Asset Management (DAM) system. TVO's new production studios will be fully operational by early 2008 and expects to produce its content entirely in digital format shortly thereafter... **VisionTV**, Canada's multi-faith and multicultural TV network, has launched **VisionTV On Demand**, delivering Flash format previews, program clips and original content. The service can be accessed at www.visiontv.ca.

RADIO: **BBM** numbers for *FALL (S4 2007)* for Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Windsor, London, Kitchener-Waterloo, St. Catharines-Niagara, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Quebec City and Halifax are available by clicking [HERE](#)... The **CRTC** has approved an application to flip **CJCH Halifax** to FM but with a proviso. Owner **CTV** must divest itself of its voting interest in the **Metro Radio Group**, the licensee of **CKUL-FM Halifax**. It would operate at 101.3 with power of 100,000 watts... **The Fan 590 (CJCL) Toronto** retracted an item Monday that it aired last month in which **Sean Avery** of the **New York Rangers** was said to have made cancer-related remarks to **Toronto Maple Leafs** forward **Jason Blake** before a game. Blake was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia in October Avery denied making the comments and his lawyers served libel notices against the Fan and the **Toronto Star** over the matter... **CKLC Kingston** completed its transition to FM on Thursday, becoming **98.9 The Drive** (CKLC-FM). The format is Classic Alternative and designed to appeal to the 25-44 audience. The property, still called **CHUM Radio Kingston** but owned by **CTVglobemedia**, has **FLY-FM** (CFLY) as a sister station,, **Big Dog (CILB-FM) Lac La Biche**, owned by **Newcap**, will launch Saturday morning at 10:35. Station Manager/Morning Show Host is **Paul O'Neil**... Applications for radio licences to be heard beginning Monday in London will see, among others bidding for Owen Sound, **Christopher Grossman's 2079966 Ontario Limited** seeking 92.3 at 32,000 watts for a blended rock current/classic music format; **Blackburn Radio** also asking for 92.3 at 14,635 watts and programming Classic Hits; ditto that same frequency at 20,000 watts for **Larche Communications Inc.**, which wants to program rock; **Evanov Communications Inc.** also wants 92.3 (at 40,000 watts) for easy listening; and, **Bayshore Broadcasting Corporation** seeks permission to add an FM transmitter, at 96.1 and 5,450 watts, for its **CFOS-AM Owen Sound**... At that same **CRTC** hearing, applicants for a radio licence at Peterborough and City of Kawartha Lakes – all wanting the 96.7 frequency – include **591989 B.C. Ltd.** to flip **Corus' CKRU Peterborough** to FM at 6,000 watts, programming Oldies; **Newcap Inc.** seeking power of 50,000 watts for a gold-based AC format; **Larche Communications Inc.** wanting a classic hits formats with power of 17,000 watts; **Pineridge Broadcasting Inc.** asking for 13,000 watts to program AC; **John Wright's K-Rock 1057 Inc.** seeking 12,400 watts for an AC format; **Evanov Communications Inc.** for power of 13,000 watts, also for an AC format; **Acadia Broadcasting Limited** for 17,000 watts to power a Soft Rock/Pop music format; **Frank Torres**, on behalf of a corporation to be incorporated, for 11,694 watts and a blues format; and, **Andy McNabb**, on behalf of a corporation to be incorporated – who application prompted the call for other applicants – wants 5,370 watts for a Christian talk format with music from Subcategory 35 (Non-classic Religious)... One other applicant of note at these hearings is **Golden West Broadcasting Ltd.** It is seeking permission for an FM licence at Winkler/Morden, operating at 103.7 with power of 27,000 watts and maintain the current country format... US radio revenue fell 5% in the third quarter, to \$5.5 billion. The **Radio Advertising Bureau** reports local was off 5%, to \$3.7 billion, and national was down 8%, to \$1.1 billion. For 2007 (through the end of Q3), local spending was \$10.7 billion, down 2% from the same period in 2006, and national was \$3.2 billion, down 4%. Local and national combined were at \$13.9 billion, a 3% decline... **Zed 99 (CIZZ-FM) Red Deer's** annual *Stuff a Bus Campaign* for the city's *Food Bank and Christmas Bureau* raised just short of \$28,000 and stuffed more than three buses with mountains of food and toy donations... The **CFOS Owen Sound** 68th consecutive *Christmas Fund Broadcast* raised \$21,000 Sunday during what is described as "a parade of local talent at the Roxy Theatre". The broadcast, a joint effort with the **Owen Sound Sun Times** (once CFOS' parent), will see proceeds benefit 24 community organizations, including **Safe 'n Sound**, a new shelter for the homeless... **Corus Québec's** Montreal stations – **98.5 FM, CKOI, CKAC, Info690, 940 Montreal and Q92** – are supporting their advertisers by inviting listeners to shop in Québec. While it can be understood why some consumers might be tempted to shop in the US, says the news release, Corus Québec wants its listeners to be aware of the impact cross-border shopping can have at home. All Corus Québec stations will broadcast a 30-second spot several times a day inviting listeners to put

their money where their home is... in Québec.

REVOLVING DOOR: New **CTV Calgary** VP/GM, effective Jan. 1, is **Len Perry**. For the past seven years, he has been Director of News and Public Affairs at the station. Perry's promotion follows on the heels of VP/GM **Pat McDougall's** announcement of her retirement Dec. 31... **Mike Fawcett**, VP of Corporate Engineering for **Newcap Radio** and based in Edmonton, is gearing up to move on. It's a slow process, he says, while Newcap begins the search for a successor and after that person's training/indoctrination. Fawcett says he'll remain in broadcasting on a consulting basis, with business already lined up... **David Strickland** has been appointed Senior VP of Sales and **Adam Ashton** has been appointed VP of Marketing for **CTV-Rogers'** coverage of the *2010/2012 Olympic Games*. The two are the latest additions, following announcements last month appointing **Rick Chisholm** the Exec VP, Broadcasting and **Alon Marcovici** as VP, Digital Media and Research... (Mr.) **Jocelyn Poirier** has been appointed President of **Shopping TVA**, a division of **TVA Group**. Poirier continues to lead **TVA Publications**... **Dan Taylor** has become Managing Editor at **CTV (CFTO) Toronto**. He had held producing duties at **Canada AM**... **Rob Gerritsen** moves to **Newcap Edmonton** Jan. 1 as Creative Director. It's a move across town for Gerritsen who had been the Head Writer at **Astral Media's The Bear/EZ Rock/The Team Edmonton**... **Jodee Zamrykut** has been promoted from Noon Anchor duties to 6:00 pm Anchor at **CKX-TV Brandon**. Zamrykut's first supper hour broadcast is set for Dec.27... **Derrick Scott**, ex PD at **Corus Radio Kingston**, joins **Corus Barrie (CHAY/CIQB/CKCB)** as PD. He first day is set for Dec. 17.

LOOKING: **CKNW Vancouver** – General Sales Manager; **Astral Media Radio Regina** – Sales Manager; **Newcap Radio Dartmouth** – Director of Engineering (corporate); **CKOM Saskatoon** – News Director; **Astral Media Hamilton** – Creative Writer; **Q107 Calgary** – Morning Show Co-Host; **Global Television Calgary** – Business Manager; **CHAT-TV Medicine Hat** - Promotions; **CTV Edmonton** – Reporter/Anchor; **CP24 Toronto** – Producer; **CTV Vancouver** – Account Executive; **CTV Winnipeg** – Weather Anchor; **CTV Toronto** – Engineering Technician - **Global TV Regina** - General Operator; **CBC Edmonton** – Senior Remote Area Transmitter Technologist; and, **APTN Ottawa** – Manager of Marketing.

SUPPLYLINES: The **Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)** in Calgary has been given a high-power FM radio transmitter and digital exciter. The **Harris Corporation Z-Series™** transmitter, to be installed this month, will be part of SAIT's *Broadcast System Technology* program curriculum for RF engineering beginning in 2008.

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TV/FILM: Video-on-demand's (VOD) dearth of revenue generation has the Canadian nets holding back on providing programming to cable companies. VOD, though - as thought by many - is where TV is going. It's the getting there where problems arise. Canadian cablecos hope VOD can make the push beyond pay-per-view into free content thus making it a more attractive source for archived shows than the Internet. Cablecos take solace from research showing that Canadian

consumers prefer their TV screens over their computers for watching video. The rub remains revenues. **CTV** has told the **CRTC** that its deal with **Rogers** to provide certain shows boils down to their handing over content more as an experiment in audience trends. There's no real hope of generating revenue, says the network, and that's why **CTVglobemedia** is expected to champion the insertion of fresh commercials into VOD episodes, a move backed by Rogers. If new spot time can be sold on VOD, it could open the door for more series to be offered... Meantime, only the US and UK have been able to buy individual (or seasons of) shows through the **iTunes Store**, but licencing deals have been worked out for other countries, including Canada. The iTunes Store did a soft launch here at mid-week, with content from **CBC**, **CTV**, and a handful of shows from US networks... **CKPG-TV Prince George** has asked the **CRTC** for permission to disaffiliate from **CBC** by the end of August. GM **Ken Kilcullen** says the **Jim Pattison Group** station will then buy content from **CanWest MediaWorks**... The 2008 **Television Bureau of Canada** Board of Directors are: Chair: **Rita Fabian**, **CTV** (Chair); **Errol Da-ré**, **Alliance Atlantis** (Vice-Chair); **Chris McGinley**, **CanWest MediaWorks** (Treasurer); **Mitch Dent**, **Rogers Media Television** (Secretary); **Michel Gagnon**, **RDS**; **Bill Hanson**, **CTV Winnipeg**; **Mike Keller**, **Newcap Television Lloydminster**; **Brad Phillips**, **Rogers Media Television**; **Dave Scapillati**; **CBC**; **Don Shafer**, **Astral Media BC**; and, **Theresa Treutler**, **TVB**. Still to be determined is a member to succeed **Brett Manlove** of **CanWest MediaWorks**.

REVOLVING DOOR: **Gary Russell**, VP/GM of **Astral Radio Vancouver** stations **95 Crave (CKZZ)** and **CISL**, has announced that his retirement will take effect Feb. 1, forty-one years after beginning at **CKY-FM Winnipeg** as an Operator/Booth Announcer. In a career where he almost managed to assemble the alphabet in station call letters, Russell also served on the boards of **BBM**, **BCAB**, **NABS West & Music BC**. His post-radio days, he says, will include municipal politics (White Rock, BC)... (Ms) **Kelly Johnston** has been promoted to Director of News & Public Affairs at **CTV (CFCN) Calgary**, effective Jan. 1. She succeeds **Len Perry** who was named to succeed **Pat McDougall** as GM/VP at the station. Johnston has been the CTV Calgary Managing Editor the last seven years... Sportscaster **Kathryn Humphreys**, who was released from **Citytv Toronto** about a month ago over a contract dispute, re-joined the station and **Rogers Media** Monday. She will also contribute to a other Rogers' properties, including **Rogers Sportsnet**, the **Fan 590 (CJCL) Toronto** and other platforms such as online and wireless... **Rick Burgess** has returned to **Rawlco Radio** as the GSM at the company's new Calgary station. He had been RSM at **Corus Radio Calgary**... **Jennifer Bell**, VP, Corporate & Public Affairs at **Alliance Atlantis** in Toronto, leaves that position at month's end... **Shawn Redmond** has been promoted to VP, Marketing at **The Sports Network**. Redmond joined TSN in 2005 as Senior Marketing Manager... After 45 years as a radio & TV broadcaster, **Jack Thompson** has retired from his two-hat gig at **CKLC Kingston**. He stepped down as Morning Show Host Nov. 2 and will leave his Sales Exec spot tomorrow (Friday). He began his career in 1962 at **CKEC New Glasgow** and then moved to Kingston in 1969. He's been in that market ever since, working across the road for (at **CKWS**) for five years before going back to CKLC... **Craig Mills**, the Marketing Manager at **Roy Hennessy's** and **David Bray's**

MediaNet Communications in Toronto, leaves the company at year-end. Mills will start up his new company, **Daybreak Communications**... **Sue Dunbar**, ex-Creative Director at **JACK FM Orillia/KICX FM Midland**, moved to **Blackburn Wingham** a week or so back. She's the Senior Writer at **CKNX/The One (CKNX-FM)/The Bull (CIBU)**... **Stephen Hudovernik** has been promoted to Director of Strategy and Planning at **CBC Toronto**. He had assumed key parts of that job during the nine months it remained vacant. Prior to joining CBC four years ago, Hudovernik headed the planning department at **Corus Entertainment's** Television Division... **Candice Molnar** is the new **CRTC** Commissioner representing Manitoba and Saskatchewan. She'd been with **SaskTel** for more than 20 years... At the **Canadian Association of Broadcasters** in Ottawa, two appointments: **Susan Tolusso** as Director, Communications and **Glenda Cardinal** as Director, Finance & Administration. **Devon Jacobs** has been confirmed in the position of Senior Director, Government Relations. Most recently, Tolusso was Editor for Playback/First Take and Playback International.

RADIO: Members of the 2008 **Radio Marketing Bureau** Board of Directors are: **Gary Belgrave**, President, **RMB**; **Derek Berghuis**, **Rogers Media**; **Glenn Chalmers**, **Astral Media**; **Lesley Conway-Kelley** (Chair), **CHUM Radio Sales/CTVglobemedia**; **Victor Giacomelli**, **Corus Radio**; **Patrick Grierson** (Past Chair), **Canadian Broadcast Sales**; **John Hayes**, **Corus Radio Group**; **Elmer Hildebrand** (Treasurer), **Golden West Broadcasting**; **Ron Hutchinson** (Second Vice Chair), **imsradio**; **Gary Miles**, **Rogers Media**; **David Murray**, **Newcap Broadcasting**; **Sandra Neposlan**; **CHUM Radio/CTVglobemedia**; **Jacques Parisien**, **Astral Media**; **Sandee Reed** (First Vice Chair), **Rawlco Radio**; **Gerry Siemens**, **Pattison Radio**; **Stephen Sienko**, **Target Broadcast Sales**; and, **Paul Ski**, **CHUM Radio/CTVglobemedia**. Ex-Officio are **Jim MacLeod**, **BBM**; **Michèle Savard**, **BCRQ**; and, **Pierre-Louis Smith**, **CAB**... **Arbitron's** upcoming **RADAR 95** network-radio report shows radio reaching 233 million US listeners every week, including 82% of all people 12+. And, it reaches 95% of American adults 18-49 with college degrees and household income of \$50,000 or more. The complete **RADAR 95** report for the 56 **RADAR**-affiliated networks will be released Dec. 17... No one expected it, but **Rawlco Radio Prince Albert's** 12-hour **Radiothon for the Victoria Hospital Foundation** last Friday raised more than half-a-million dollars. Event organizers had hoped to beat last year's \$175,000 but a surge of donations in the eleventh hour left them with more than \$533,291... In Montreal, competing radio stations came together last week for the **La grande guignolée** fundraiser. Hosts from competing stations took to the streets to raise money and collect food items, part of a province-wide initiative that brings together radio and TV broadcasters, and other organizations. Last year, more than 100 Quebec media outlets took part in **La grande guignolée**, raising over \$2 million and tons of non-perishable food items... **The Bear (CFBR) Edmonton** raised \$42,000 at its annual **Bear Rock Sale and Auction**. All funds go to the **Bear's Children's Fund** which has, since inception, donated \$1.4 million in cash to Edmonton charities... **The River (CKRV-FM) Kamloops**, in its **15th Annual Toys for Kids Breakfast**, collected 2,459 toys and over \$25,000 in cash donations. Part of the cash goes to **Christmas Amalgamated** while the lion's share (\$18,000), is earmarked for the purchase of a new Infant Incubator for the Intensive Care Neonatal Unit at the **Royal Inland Hospital Foundation**... **Q104 Halifax/Dartmouth** Personality **Lisa Blackburn**, in her fourth annual **Hunger Strike** to feed 1,004 families over the Christmas season, staged a bed-in on location at a Dartmouth Mall. Over the two days, Blackburn's goal was reached and then doubled – to feeding 2,362 families... **The New Coast (CKOA-FM) Glace Bay**, a community station on Cape Breton, launched last week with an East Coast music format... Not too far away, at **CKEC New Glasgow**, the flip to FM happened Tuesday at 94.1. The format remains AC/Hot AC but with the added bonus, it says in its sell line, of "an East Coast twist"... **Bayshore Broadcasting** in Owen Sound has challenged fellow broadcasters to join a campaign supporting Canadian troops. The **Canadian Jewish Congress** and the **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto** have plans to distribute lapel pins with **Rabbi Reuven Bulka's** now famous lines, "We Love Our Troops" and "Nous Aimons nos Troupes", delivered Nov. 11 to 30,000 people on Parliament Hill to chant.

GENERAL: More than 30,000 **NABS** 2008 calendars will be distributed this month, all in the cause of generating revenues for providing assistance to Canadian advertising and media professionals (not just sales), to help due to illness, injury, unemployment or financial difficulties. The **National Advertising Benevolent Society** 2008 calendar theme is **NABS ROCKS** and features classic album cover concepts from 13 advertising and promotional marketing agencies across Canada. The calendar project is expected to generate close to \$40,000... There's a treat in store Saturday night for TV viewers in the Toronto-area who loved and admired the late **Johnny Lombardi**, the founder of **CHIN Radio**. At 9 pm on **OMNI Television**,

Johnny Lombardi: The Great Communicator. The 60-minute documentary was a labour of love for **Grace Fusillo-Lombardi** of Fuel Productions, the Writer/Director/Producer, and for Executive Producer **Lenny Lombardi**. Their portrait details their fathers' rise from poverty to successful businessman, entrepreneur and a key contributor to the development of multicultural broadcasting in Canada... Retired **CTV Winnipeg** Technician **Terry Kenny** has taken his fight against his mandatory retirement at 65 to an arbitration panel. Kenny, who worked at **CKY-TV** until September, says he's still capable of doing his job and that the process is unfair. Kenny cites **CTV News** Anchor **Lloyd Robertson**. Even though most provinces have outlawed mandatory retirement, the federal government – which regulates certain industry groups (ranging from broadcasters to airlines) – allows mandatory retirement in some cases... **Standard Interactive** has become **Astral iMedia Interactive**, becoming the country's third largest online entertainment property. The newly formed group of sites has approximately 160 sites, including Astral's national radio and TV properties – English and French. **Claude Lizotte** is VP/GM of Astral iMedia which has offices in Montreal and Toronto.

SIGN-OFFS: **Perry White**, 43, in a fatal car accident Monday near St. George, NB. "The Country Gentleman", the Morning Host at **98.1 The Tide St. Stephen** and weekend Announcer at **CHSJ Saint John**, also sang and performed for charities in legions and community halls across the province. White had finished his morning show in St. Stephen and was traveling toward Saint John when his minivan crossed the centre line and crashed into an oncoming tractor-trailer... **Roger King**, 63, at Boca Raton, Fla, from complications of a stroke. The CEO of **CBS Television Distribution** was regarded as a syndication titan.

LOOKING: **CTV Toronto** – Research Manager Programming/Programming Communications; **CTV British Columbia** – Traffic Coordinator; **Global Regina** – Account Executive; **CHCH News Hamilton** – Reporter; **CBC Toronto** – Manager, Operations-TV Network Sports and a Senior Researcher, Olympics; **CBC Thompson** – Senior Remote Area Transmitter Technologist; **CBC Montreal** – Communications Officer English Services; **Movie Central, Encore Avenue, Scream Toronto** – Manager of Programming; **Citytv Calgary** – Reporter/Anchor; **TVO Toronto** – Acquisition Contract Officer; **Corus Radio Kingston** – Program Director; **Big Country FM Grande Prairie** – Newsperson; **The Zone@91-3 Victoria** – Promotions and a Sales Rep; **Newcap Radio Kentville** – Program Director, Traffic/Accounting Coordinator and a Promotions Director; **Astral Media Radio Penticton** – Creative Writer; and, **The Bounce (CHBN) Edmonton** – Sales Account Manager.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS THIS WEEK INCLUDE: Sean East, **Harris Corp., Oshawa**. Welcome!

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Page One of Three

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SIGN-OFFS: Don Chevrier, 69, of a blood disorder at Palm Harbor, Fla. Chevrier was the first TV voice of the *Toronto Blue Jays* yet he also worked football, curling, hockey, and boxing for **CBC**, called boxing for ABC and did curling and the past two *Olympic Winter Games* for **NBC**. Don Chevrier made his debut on *CJCA Edmonton* as an on-air Sports Reporter at the age of 16, calling high school sports... **David Sovereign**, 69, of Haliburton in a Toronto hospital after complications with

heart surgery. He had spent 46 years in broadcasting, most of it with *Quinte Broadcasting* in Belleville and Trenton as Announcer, News Director, Salesman and Station Manager of *CJTN Trenton*. Sovereign joined the faculty in the School of Media Studies at *Belleville's Loyalist College* where he taught Broadcast Management, Sales, Copy Writing, News Writing and Announcing for 18 years. Upon retirement from teaching, he spearheaded a community effort to bring community radio to Haliburton. Upon **CRTC** approval, *CANOE FM Haliburton* came to life and he became station manager... **Barry Pauley**, 74, at St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener. He began his radio career at *CKBB Barrie* when it first went on the air. He made stops in London, Saint John, Orillia and then settled at *CHYM Kitchener* where he was the long-time News Director under GM **John Larke**. Pauley was also President of the *Radio-Television News Directors Association* in 1981.

TV/FILM: The **TQS** TV network, based in Montreal and owned by **Cogeco**, has obtained temporary protection from creditors in a Quebec bankruptcy-court filing. The move, under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, gives TQS time to reorganize its operations. With more than 600 employees, the network covers all of Quebec. It has five of its own stations – in Montreal, Quebec City, Saguenay, Sherbrooke and Trois-Rivieres – and four affiliates in Gatineau/Ottawa, Val-d'Or/Rouyn-Noranda, Rimouski and Riviere-du-Loup. TQS cited the gradual loss of ad revenue to specialty TV networks and content accessible over the Internet, combined with increased production costs. It also laid part of the blame for its woes on the **CRTC**, saying that it had refused to grant general-interest TV networks an equal ability to charge subscriber fees for signal distribution. The court protection is a bid to survive while it looks for ways to make the company attractive to prospective buyers... **Rogers Communications** has surrendered its right to southern Ontario specialty channel *CablePulse24*. It did have an option to buy 20% of Toronto's 24-hour news, weather and traffic channel but Rogers withdrew. The channel will be wholly-owned by **CTVglobemedia**... **HDTV Networks Inc.** has applied for a free national over-the-air high-def broadcast licence based in Vancouver. The company wants to deliver to stations proposed for Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Halifax. Hearings are set for Feb. 11 in Gatineau. HDTV Networks is a subsidiary of **CSR Investments Inc.**, a private entity controlled by **John Bitove** who also controls **Canadian Satellite Radio Inc.** and **XM Satellite Radio** in Canada... **The Score Television Network** will begin providing sports updates to *Global Television* next month. **Rogers Sportsnet** has been supplying Global with content but with Rogers now owning *Citytv (CITY-TV) Toronto* and *Citytv (CKVU-TV) Vancouver*, it's pulling out of the Global agreement... **CBC-TV** and **Fireworks International** have a new agreement in which Fireworks will acquire CBC's international distribution rights. The deal includes the sale of CBC's program catalogue of about 135 active titles, comprising 700 hours of TV programming. The agreement doesn't affect any of CBC's broadcasting rights or archives. The transaction is expected to be completed early in the new year... **CBC** has begun an internal investigation and possible disciplinary process after one of its Parliamentary Reporters suggested questions to a Liberal MP on the Commons ethics committee. The Conservatives complained about the oft-used practise, specifically that Liberal **Pablo Rodriguez** directed questions from the CBC to former PM **Brian Mulroney**. The Liberal party says it's "bombarded" daily with comments and ideas

for questions from voters and Reporters... A **CBC Winnipeg** Cameraman was arrested while trying to shoot footage of a police operation. Police ordered him to stop but he maintained he was on public property and should have been allowed to take pictures. He was arrested and police seized his camera and tape... The recent country-wide spate of ugly weather worked out beautifully for the interactive services of **The Weather Network** and its French-language counterpart, **MétéoMédia** – particularly in Ontario and Quebec. Over 11.6 million pages of weather content on theweathernetwork.com and meteomedia.com were delivered on Sunday, the company's largest single day of content delivery... The **OMNI Toronto** and **Citytv Toronto** sales teams have moved to a location away from their studio/admin buildings. Both are now in mid-town Toronto (1920 Yonge Street)... **Corus Custom Networks** has launched **EyesOn TV**, described as Western Canada's first and only network dedicated to long form infomercial advertising. It reaches viewers in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Whistler, Victoria, Winnipeg and Kenora... **Aurora Cable** in Ontario, with just 16,000 subscribers, has launched what is believed to be Canada's first 24/7 High Definition community channel. Broadcasting in 1080i on channel 510, the station now records all ENG, studio and mobile productions in HD.

RADIO: **Canadian Broadcast Sales** says its national radio sales climbed 9.5% in the first quarter and appear on track to post strong annual growth of 8.7%. CBS President **Patrick Grierson** says Saskatchewan was up 45%, Manitoba 36%, Alberta 9%, Atlantic Canada up 8% over last year and Ontario was up 18.9% with Toronto at plus-14.3%. The top five categories accounting for 56.8% of total dollars were: Retail at 17.9%; Telecommunications 11.7%; Financial Services & Insurance, 9.3% and Government 7.7% (Ontario election). National Automotive was down to 10.19% from 15.6%. Q1 spending remained stable with Adults 25-54, Females and Males 25-54 accounting for 60% of all dollars spent. Adults 18-49 accounted for 8.64% of spending... Even as **Christopher Grossman's Haliburton Broadcasting Group** and **Ian Byers' More FM (CFBK-FM) Huntsville** closed the deal for Grossman's purchase of the station, his numbered Ontario company has applied to the **CRTC** to amend the licence of its **CIYN-FM Kincardine** so as to add an FM repeater at Goderich. The Commission approved such a transmitter for CIYN-FM almost three years ago but the station didn't make it operational nor did it ask for a time extension. As a result, the approval became null and void earlier this year. CIYN reminded the CRTC that a dispute with the owners of the tower prohibited it from becoming operational in the required time frame. Interventions are due by Jan. 21... Favouring the merger of **XM** and **Sirius Satellite Radio** are most of the major automakers, including GM, American Honda, Ford, Toyota, Chrysler, Hyundai and Kia. GM says it would be in the public interest while Ford says a merger "could serve the interests of consumers by offering a more dynamic and potentially cost-effective product". The comments were made in submissions to the US **Federal Communications Commission**... **The FOX (CFOX-FM) Vancouver** and its presenting partner, Subway Restaurants, raised 12,798 lbs of food and \$81,712.82 cash for the **Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society** during its **20th ANNUAL SANTA FOX FOOD DRIVE**. The Food Bank has buying power which allows it to turn each dollar into \$3 thus taking the cash donations and tripling them to enable the purchase of \$245,000 in food items... **CJDC Dawson Creek**, now the **Astral Media**-owned station, turned 60 this past week... Presented by the **Canadian Association of Broadcasters**, the 11th Annual **Canadian Radio Music Awards** will be presented March 7 at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Radio listeners from across the country can vote online for their favourite radio artist. This year's Fans' Choice nominees are **Avril Lavigne**, **Finger Eleven**, **Nelly Furtado**, **Nickelback** and **Three Days Grace**.

GENERAL: A divided **Federal Communications Commission** has approved what could be the biggest change in US media-ownership rules in more than 32 years. It allows newspapers and broadcasters in a market to buy each other. FCC Chairman **Kevin Martin** pushed the vote through despite protests from senators and consumer groups... While a Bill to amend the **Copyright Act** was expected before the Parliamentary recess, it is now believed that it will be tabled in late January. The Bill, if approved, would allow Canada to implement provisions of two WIPO treaties dealing with the rights of authors, performers and sound recording makers in the digital age. Canada's implementation of these provisions has been the subject of review and debate since Canada signed the Treaties in 1997, and last took legislative form in Bill C-60 in 2005... In what appears to be a sop to exhibitors at the annual show in Las Vegas, the **National Association of Broadcasters** has begun sending e-mails to past NAB Show attendees selling them on the idea of free admission to the Exhibits area. Advance registration is required. **NAB2008 – Where Content Comes to Life** - sees the conference on from April 11-17 while exhibits will be open April 14-17... **Canadian Women in Communications 2008** will be held at the Ottawa Congress Centre Feb. 26.

REVOLVING DOOR: With the purchase of *More FM (CFBK-FM) Huntsville* by the *Haliburton Broadcasting Group*, **Sean Connon** becomes GM succeeding **Margaret Byers**. Connon remains as HBG's Director of Sales... Long-time Sales Exec **Dan Hamilton** will be leaving *Citytv Toronto* Feb. 15. He joined *CHUM Television* in 1983... **Jason Manning** is PD at the soon-to-be-launched *Rogers* radio station at Medicine Hat. He had been MD at *Sonic 102.9 Edmonton*... **Paula Kilpatrick** has been promoted within *CBC Media Sales & Marketing* to National Sales Director. Kilpatrick joined CBC three years ago as Senior Manager of National Sales. She has also had stops at *CanWest*, *The Comedy Network* and *Showcase Television*... Gone from *The Score Television Network* are VP, Production & Programming **Anthony Cicione** and Network ND **Dave Rutherford**. There was an apparent philosophical difference in the direction the two wanted the channel to go. They wanted news gathering as well as commentary – Management wants an edgier, in-your-face attitude... **Mel Cooper** who after selling *CFAX/CHBE-FM Victoria* to *CHUM Ltd.*, became the company's local community advocate based in the *A-Channel* building, is now Chair of the *TELUS Community Board*... *94X (CIRX) Prince George* PD/Morningman **Brad Bregani** is leaving that post, bound for similar duties in the Cayman Islands.

LOOKING: *Q99 Grande Prairie* - Weekend News Person/Reporter; *Astral Media Terrace* – Engineer/Technician Broadcast Electronics; *Astral Media Radio Winnipeg* – Afternoon Drive Announcer (*Hot 103*) and Afternoon Drive Announcer (*QX104.1*); *CHUM Radio Brockville* – Producer/Announcer; *CING-FM/CJXY-FM/CHML Hamilton* – Production/Creative Director; *Newcap Radio Calgary* – Account Manager; *Astral Media Radio Edmonton* – Creative/Traffic Coordinator; *MuchMusic Toronto* – Line Producer/Editor; *Global Regina* – Account Executive; *BNN Toronto* – Chase Producer; *CTV Winnipeg* – Maintenance Technician and an Operations Coordinator; *CTV Toronto* – Video Editor and a Non Linear Editor; *CTV Whistler Bureau* – ENG Camera Technician; and, *Teletoon Toronto* – Programming Coordinator.

The *Broadcast Dialogue Electronic Briefing* is taking off early for two weeks' vacation over Christmas and New Year's. We'll see you again Jan. 12/08. Meantime, I wish you a very

**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!**

