

BROADCAST Dialogue

Essential Reading

Christensen Communications Ltd. • 18 Turtle Path, Lagoon City ON • LOK 1B0 • howard@broadcastdialogue.com

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SIGN-OFFS:



Gary Russell (Norm Vidler), 67, in White Rock, B.C. of cancer. His 41-year broadcast career began at *CKY-FM Winnipeg*, then owned by *Moffat Communications*, as an operator/booth announcer. He grew at Moffat into programming and management responsibilities. Later, he joined *Standard Broadcasting* in Vancouver and, when *Astral Media* purchased Standard in 2007, Russell became VP/GM of Astral's *95 Crave (CKZZ)* and *CISL*. Late in 2007, he announced that his retirement would take effect Feb. 1, 2008. In 2008, he was inducted into the *Canadian Association of Broadcasting's Hall of Fame*. During his broadcast career, Russell also served on the boards of *BBM*, the *British Columbia Association of Broadcasters*, the *National Advertising Benevolent Society*, *ABS West*, *Music BC* and on the *British Columbia Institute of Technology's* advisory council. His post-radio days included being vice-chair of the *City of White Rock Cultural Committee*. Gary Russell was the brother of two other accomplished broadcasters, Jeff Vidler and Chuck McCoy...

Ed Duarte, 70, in Hamilton after a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease. He began his sales career at *CJJD Hamilton* (now *CHAM*) where he grew into the sales manager's role. Later, he moved across the street to *CHML/Y95 Hamilton*, also as sales manager. From there, Duarte also handled sales management of *Q107/AM640 Toronto*. Most recently, he was a sales consultant to stations and ad buyers...

Nick Carmin Misco, 67, of brain cancer at Maple Ridge, B.C. Most recently, he was the Western Canada senior manager of client solutions at *Rogers Communications*. Misco's broadcast background included *CKO Vancouver* and *CKVU-TV Vancouver (Canwest Global, Shaw Media)*...

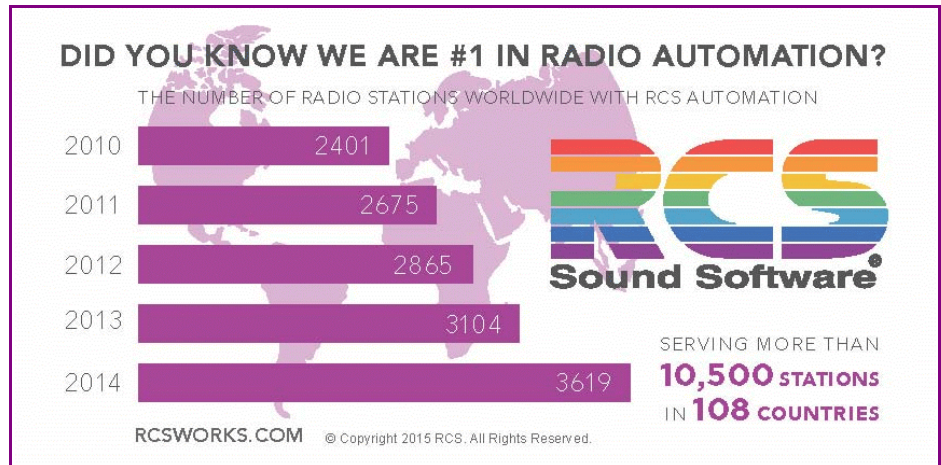
Wayne MacLure, 81, in St. Catharines after a massive heart attack. MacLure's career was almost entirely in the Niagara Peninsula save for a two-year stint at *CFCO Chatham*. He worked at *CJRN Niagara Falls*, *CKTB St. Catharines* and *CHRE St. Catharines*. MacLure's smooth, expressive reading style led to many voiceover projects, including freelance spots for the *Pizza Pizza* chain on Toronto radio and TV. He was also the radio voice for *Marineland*. MacLure retired in 2000...

Harold Smith, 91, in Chatham. The former host of *CFCO Chatham's* farm show began in 1962 after pitching it in the market where, though heavily agricultural, had minimal farm reporting. He was inducted into the *Kent*

Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1993.

RADIO/AUDIO:

Bell Media and **iHeartRadio** will share and deliver digital radio content to smartphones, tablets, gaming consoles and automotive entertainment systems beginning early this summer. The free streaming music service will compete with *Apple Music*, *Spotify* and *Stingray Music*. iHeartRadio will offer Canadian listeners access to all of Bell Media's radio content and to iHeartRadio events. It will also replace Bell's existing radio app...



The **CRTC** has issued a call for new radio applications in Edmonton but has limited the field with a preliminary view that the market would be best served by proposals for ethnic programming. The market is now served by 19 commercial stations with **CKER-FM**, owned by **Rogers**, as the only ethnic service. It targets the South Asian, and to a lesser extent, the Chinese communities. Applicants so far include **VMS Media Group**, **Neeti P. Ray**, **Antoine Karam** and **South Fraser Broadcasting**. Applications must be received by April 6...

The **CRTC** has granted **DAWG FM (CIDG-FM) Ottawa**, owned by **Torres Media**, a power boost to a maximum effective radiated power of 19,500 watts from 5,500. This follows Commission approval for it and French-language community station **101.7 CHIP-FM Fort-Coulonge** to exchange frequencies. **101.9 DAWG-FM**, as a result, will move its transmission site and change its technical parameters...

The **LA Radio Group's** two Alberta stations — **CJUV 94.1 Lacombe** and **CKIK-FM Red Deer** — are now owned individually by **Golden West Broadcasting (CJUV)** and **Harvard Broadcasting (CKIK)**. The **CRTC** assessed the value of the CJUV transaction at \$4,598,070. The Harvard deal for CKIK was valued at \$4,693,809. Harvard also owns **100.7 CRUZ fm (CKRI) Red Deer**. The closing dates for both sales have yet to be determined...

Jewish content **Radio Shalom Montreal**, on the air at 1650 for a decade, may close due to financial problems. Founder/President **Robert Levy** says he'll pull the plug Jan. 31 if a solution isn't found by then. The community station operates with volunteers...

Catching up on Christmas fundraisers; **105.7 Sun FM Vernon** raised \$30,081 for its *Teens Count Too* campaign. The money went toward gifts for marginalized teens in the North Okanagan as well as helping to fund *The Cinderella Project* which assists needy teens at high school graduation... **91.5 EZ Rock Salmon Arm's** annual *Great Canadian Turkey Drive* raised \$38,075 (1,523 turkeys at \$25) for the **Salvation Army Food Bank**... **106.1 EZ Rock Revelstoke** collected \$4,066 and about a half-ton of food in its first food drive...

95.5 KiSS Calgary's Annual Toy Angels campaign in support of the **Salvation Army's Christmas Program** saw

20,195 toys collected and over \$3,000 in gift cards donated...

boom 97.3 says \$82,420 was raised for *Make-A-Wish Toronto & Central Ontario* through morning host *Stu Jeffries' \$1000 Make-A-Wish Minute*. The charity grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. The campaign's original goal was \$20,000 but with that achieved in the first few days, the goal was set higher, then higher, then higher again.

TELEVISION/VIDEO:

A new study, put together by consulting group *Nordicity* and consultant *Peter Miller* concludes — through fact and assumption — that the new “skinny basic” rules which go into effect this March could cost upwards of 7,000 jobs by 2020 and remove roughly \$400-million in Canadian program funding. The report on the new rules designed to unbundle large cable and satellite packages was commissioned by unions and advocacy groups representing TV creators and producers. Part of the solution offered by the study’s authors, though not expected to have an impact on the CRTC, would give distributors an option to unbundle channels but with no requirement to do so. As well, some earlier regulations would be reimplemented, including a requirement that viewers receive more Canadian channels than imports...

Shaw Communications is launching the first part of a revamped television offering with an app called *FreeRangeTV* that lets subscribers watch live television and on-demand programs and movies from their mobile devices. The app is a cloud-based platform that integrates live TV, on-demand and recorded content in one interface. Shaw now offers more than a dozen apps for viewing various networks live and on-demand but this standalone app aggregates all of the content in one space...

Pelmorex founder *Pierre Morrisette* now controls 100% of the company after purchasing a 49% stake late last month. It had been held by *The Weather Channel LLC* since 1996.

EVOLVING DOOR:

Lowell Green, a long-time *CFRA Ottawa* talk show host, has retired. The 79-year-old, who began his broadcast career in 1960 as a news and farm reporter, told listeners, according to the *CFRA* website, that his decision to step down was entirely his own. Green will still make regular daily commentaries to morning programming in the form of five- to seven minute appearances...



Lowell Green



Rosemary Barton

Rosemary Barton has been confirmed as the full-time host for *Power and Politics*, *CBC News Network's* daily political show. She became the interim host in July, 2015 after *Evan Solomon* was dismissed. Barton began her journalism career in Winnipeg as a researcher for *CBC's* French news network, *RDI*...

Meanwhile, former *Power and Politics* host *Evan Solomon* begins next week at *CFRA Ottawa*. He'll host *Afternoon Edition*, the daily show that runs between 2 and 6 p.m. Solomon succeeds *Rob Snow* who moves to late mornings as *Lowell Green's* successor. Solomon will continue as the executive producer of *SiriusXM's* daily show, *Everything is Political*...

Stirling Faux is no longer morning show host at *CISL 650 Vancouver*. He began with the station in June, 2009 serving in swing and weekend roles. Faux moved to the then-*Astral* station from *CHQR Calgary*. Before that he had been with *CKNW Vancouver* for 12 years...

Mel Kemmis moves to become GM/GSM of *Bell Media's* Northern B.C. radio and TV properties in Terrace, Kitimat, Prince Rupert and Smithers. The 33-year broadcast veteran, who most recently was affiliate sales manager with *Sparknetworks* in Vancouver, will be based in Terrace. Kemmis's background includes programming and sales roles with *Rogers*, *Corus* and Bell Media...

John Helm has been appointed PD/morning co-host at *97-5 the River Kamloops*. He begins Feb. 1. Helm moves from *Vista Radio's The Goat Castlegar* where he was PD/morning host...



John Helm

Derick Fage

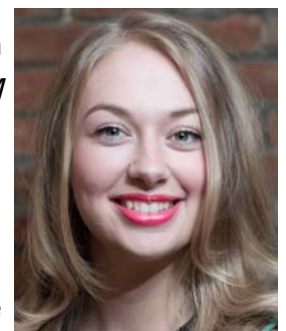
Derick Fage officially joined *City Montreal's Breakfast Television* as co-host Jan. 4, working with *Joanne Vrakas*. He'd been acting as guest co-host this past year...

John Boles will join *Newcap's* Alberta Northwest stations Jan. 18 as the field engineer. Based in Edson, he will oversee the seven studio and 11 transmitter plants in the division. Boles was most recently with *Bell Media Regina*...

Abby Ho is the new senior producer and head of the *CBC Fullscreen Creator Network*. The digital and interactive producer had been running CBC's digital comedy brand, *Punchline*. She is expected to continue the building out of the network with Canadian talent and finding ways to integrate it into CBC's other media outlets, such as TV and its online comedy portal...

Jonathon Jasnoch, known on-air as *Jonny Jazzno*, is the new *Virgin Edmonton* PD. He had been assistant program director...

Morgan Sheppard is the new promotions director at *Indie88 Toronto*. She moved from Atlantic Canada where her experience was in promotions and marketing at *Radio 965 FM Halifax*, in programming, music (APD/MD) and on-air at *Hot 105.5 Charlottetown* and doing evenings and weekends at *Live 105 Halifax*...



Morgan Sheppard

Claude Laflamme, who became VP, legal and regulatory affairs at Montreal-based *Stingray* in September, 2013 is no longer with the company. Prior to her appointment, she had been at *Astral Media* for more than 15 years...



Broadcast Engineer - Red Deer

For Details or To Apply,
Click [HERE](#).

Maya Johnson, a 10-year *CTV Montreal* news veteran, is the new Quebec City bureau chief. She succeeds Max Harrold who returned to Montreal as CTV's assignment editor...

Mike McDonald has become news director at the *Corus Radio Barrie/Collingwood* cluster. He's also doing the morning news runs at *Fresh Radio* and *B101 Barrie*. His background includes stops at *Dougall Media* in Thunder Bay, *Bayshore Broadcasting Owen Sound*, *Rock 95 Barrie* and *CKLW Windsor*...

Bell Media Sales in Toronto has three new senior appointees. They are Michael Alexandor, Alyson Walker and Debbie Drutz. Alexandor is VP, marketing and innovation. Walker, who starts Jan. 11, is VP, brand partnerships. And Drutz becomes VP, client strategy...



Michael Alexandor



Alyson Walker



Debbie Drutz

Ross Winters began Jan. 2 as director of programming at the *Jim Pattison Broadcast Group* after almost a year working as a consultant with their stations. An element of his responsibilities is supporting the JPBG group's PDs. (*Editor's Note: In some companies, "supporting" is jargon for overseeing. In JPBG's case, supporting means supporting.*)



General Sales Manager - Alliston

For Details or To Apply,
Click [HERE](#).

GENERAL:

City/OMNI Edmonton is in the process of moving in with *Rogers Radio* at 5915 Gateway Blvd. Television's lease at 10212 Jasper Ave. was up and it was decided to put radio-TV teams together under one roof...

CBC Calgary will be moving to a new address after the corporation's board of directors approved the sale of their longtime location. The CBC says the design and construction process of the new, smaller building is expected to take 18 to 24 months to complete, with the hope of moving in by July, 2017...

Of 69 new appointments to the *Order of Canada*, among them are broadcasters and filmmakers. They are:
COMPANION OF THE ORDER OF CANADA — Atom Egoyan, C.C. for his ground-breaking contributions to film as an internationally respected filmmaker and for his commitment to mentoring and showcasing Canadian artists.
OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA — Guy Latraverse, O.C., C.Q. for his contributions to the development of the recording and entertainment industry as an agent and producer, and for his unwavering commitment to destigmatizing mental illness.

MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF CANADA — Denise Bombardier, C.M., C.Q. for her contributions as a journalist, television host, author and champion of the French language... Rudy Buttignol, C.M. for his contributions as a champion of Canadian documentary filmmaking and for his transformative leadership at the *Knowledge Network*... Douglas Ward, C.M. for his contributions to radio broadcasting and for his efforts to improve food security in developing countries.



Broadcasters lost in 2015

Thank you for your contributions to the broadcasting industry

James Allyn, 71, who'd been both a radio and television anchor in Regina. He started at *CKKR*, Rosetown, joined *CKCK Radio/TV Regina* in the early '70s and succeeded the late Jim McLeod as anchor of the evening news in 1979. Allyn was in the TV anchor chair through 1995 while also doing news at *CKRM Regina*.

Paul Almond, days short of his 84th birthday, in Malibu from complications arising from long-time heart problems. Almond was known for directing, producing and writing films seen on *CBC-TV*.

Normand Beauchamp, 72, of cancer in Montreal. Beauchamp began his broadcasting career with *Télémedia* where he became president in 1982. Between March 1984 and February 2000, he was president, chairman and CEO of *Radio-mutuel*. Beauchamp was a member of the board of directors of *Astral Media* from 2000 to 2004 and was a recipient of the *Canadian Association of Broadcasters' Gold Ribbon Award for Broadcast Excellence*.

Brian Belfry, 71, in Oshawa of a suspected heart attack. He had been the long-time morning man at the now defunct *CHOO 1390 Ajax*. He was also the image voice at *CityTV Toronto* before the late Mark Daley was given that role.

Don Berns, age unknown, of a heart attack in Brampton. The Connecticut-born Berns came to Toronto in the early '80s to work at *CFNY*. Later, he became assistant PD and music director (1985-87) and PD (1987-88), and on-air personality (1985-92) when the station was known as The Spirit of Radio. Before *CFNY*, he'd been with a number of American stations in major markets. When *CFNY* changed the format in 1992, Berns moved to the then-new *Energy 108*. Later, he spent time at *Power 88.5*, *Hot 103.5* and *CHIN FM*. He had also been the booth announcer for *Global Television*, a voiceover artist for a number of national commercials and worked in theatre.

Geoff Bingle, 90, in London. Bingle's career began at *CJCS-AM Stratford* in 1948. Two years later, he moved to *CFPL London* and stayed until his retirement in the mid '90s. He anchored the *CFPL-TV* evening news and took part in at least two other live TV shows. During his years on the radio side, Bingle was chief announcer, production director, PD of *CFPL-AM* and, subsequently, *Stereo 96 (CFPL-FM)*. Late in his career and into semi-retirement he was the producer of the station's talk show.

Mark Blandford, 73, in Montreal of cardiovascular complications. His work was prolific in both English and French television drama. Notably, his first project for *CBC*, after beginning in local current affairs on the English side, was 1975's *The October Crisis*, unique because it was a docu-drama, mixing the work of real journalists with actors playing the parts of people such as Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Blandford was named head of drama at *Radio-Canada* in 1990 and stayed in that job for seven years.

Don Braden, 60, in Collingwood after complications from a stroke. Braden had been executive director of the *Canadian Satellite Users Association* and its successor, the *Canadian Broadcast Distribution Association*. At his passing he was president of the Blue Mountain Village Association.

Brian Brenn, 71, in Vancouver of cancer. The long-time *NEWS1130 Vancouver* anchor was one of the original staff members when the station signed on in February 1996. Brenn's broadcast career spanned over 50-years and included stations in Montreal and Ottawa. He was also a non-practicing lawyer and held three university degrees.

Gordon Burnett, 95, the original owner of *CHOW Welland* (launched in 1957 and now *Giant FM [CIXL]*), at St. Catharines General Hospital. Burnett began his broadcast career at *CKFH Toronto* as an announcer. His career ascent began with the Roy Thomson chain of radio stations in Ontario's north. Burnett was also an architect of the *Canadian Country Music Association* and served as its president (1981-83). When he stepped down in 1994, his late wife, **Suzanne Rochon-Burnett**, bought the station.

Ken Cameron (Kenneth Roy Camphaug), 58, in Edmonton. Cameron was a 30+ year veteran of radio in Western Canada, primarily in Alberta. He'd been on-air at stations that include *CHED Edmonton*, *CFCW Camrose/Edmonton*, *CFAC Calgary* and *CJOC Lethbridge*.

Stan Carew, 64, in Halifax. The broadcaster, who was host of *CBC Radio's Weekend Mornings* for 18 years, was found at his home. Carew had suffered from serious health problems and was planning to retire in September. He began his radio career in 1968 at *CHNS Halifax* and worked for the CBC in Saint John and Toronto, and was the host of network shows *The Entertainers* and *Prime Time*, as well as reading national newscasts on *The World at Six* and *World Report*. Carew was an actor, too, and appeared in movies with Harrison Ford, Sissy Spacek, James Caan and Cybill Shepherd.

Peggy Charren, 86, in Dedham, Mass. Charren was the founder of *Action for Children's Television* in 1968 because she was so frustrated by the poor quality of programming—which she called “wall-to-wall monster cartoons”—available to her daughters.

Peter Collins, 42, in Kamloops of complications related to liver cancer. A master control switcher at *CFJC-TV Kamloops*, he was a former member of the *Canadian Opera Company* in Toronto and was also a music teacher and voice coach. His father is **Doug Collins**, the long-time news director of the *Jim Pattison Broadcast Group* radio and television operations in Kamloops.

Richard Costley-White, 48, in London almost a year after being diagnosed with Central Nervous System Lymphoma. His business career began when he was asked to join the Board of Directors of the family holding company, *Blackburn Group Inc.* in January 1996, three and half years after the death of his mother, **Martha Blackburn**. Costley-White owned Southwestern Ontario's *Blackburn Radio*, serving as both chairman and president until the disease forced his resignation.

Mike Critch, 93, in St. John's. He was a journalist with *VOCM St. John's* for over 20 years beginning in the 1960s, and is the father of comedian **Mark Critch** and radio announcer **Mike Campbell**. Critch was known for his distinctive style and presentation.

Bruce Davidsen, 70, in Toronto after a prolonged illness followed by a heart attack. While most of his career involved radio and records, music promotion and artist promotion, his character was such that many of the now “grumpy old men” of radio in Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver paid tribute to the enormous effect he had on their lives and careers.

Lauren Davis, 24, in Ottawa while on maternity leave. Police responded to a medical call at Davis's home. She was the daughter of *CHFI-FM Toronto* morning co-host **Erin Davis**.

Bruce Dierick, 46, suddenly in Vancouver. He was a *CBC Vancouver* recording engineer, having worked on projects for radio, TV and online. He began with the public broadcaster in 2005.

Fraser Dougall, 73, in Thunder Bay after a lengthy bout with cancer. Dougall, the president of *Dougall Media*, began his career in broadcasting in 1958 when he joined his father's company. Following Hector Dougall's death in 1960, Dougall took over. In 1962, at 21, he became president of *CKPR* radio and television. He was the first Canadian to create a TV operation that held two licenses in the same market—*CTV* on one station and *CBC* on the other. Later, he expanded Dougall Media to print with a Thunder Bay newspaper.

Ed Duarte, 70, in Hamilton after a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease. He began his sales career at *CJJD Hamilton* (now *CHAM*) where he grew into the sales manager's role. Later, he moved across the street to *CHML/Y95 Hamilton*, also as sales manager. From there, Duarte also handled sales management of *Q107/AM640 Toronto*. Most recently, he was a sales consultant to stations and ad buyers.

(Geoffrey) Clive Eastwood, 94, in Brampton after six months of increasing illness. He was with *CFRB Toronto* for over 40 years, overseeing engineering as it grew to a giant 50,000 watts and was the most listened-to radio station in Canada. He had been an engineer at *CFRB* since 1945. Before going to the University of Toronto for an engineering degree, he'd been a techie at the station from 1938-1941. In 1948, Eastwood was promoted to chief engineer, two weeks before his wedding day. In 1969 he was appointed VP of engineering. In 1985 the *Canadian Association of Broadcasters* gave him its *Engineer of the Year Award* as well as its *Outstanding Technical Achievement Award*. Eastwood retired in 1986.

David F. Errington, 77, in Vancouver. His broadcasting career included being a writer, producer and director for *CBC Radio/Television* in Vancouver and Toronto, working at *Access Alberta TV*, the *National Film Board* and being the first news director at *CISL Richmond*.

John Evans, 70, of multiple myeloma at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket after being flown home from Florida. The former chief engineer at *Corus Radio Barrie* retired Dec. 2012 after more than 50 years there. He began in 1961 with the then stand-alone *CKBB Barrie* and remained through various ownership changes.

Roger Ferguson, 57, in Vancouver of cancer. The 25-year veteran of the Western advertising industry was most recently senior national account manager, specialty TV/TSN/RDS at *Bell Media Sales*. Ferguson's career began on the agency side at *Walker Leonard*, then *Palmer Jarvis*, then *DDB Tribal*. He moved to the *Western Media Group* in 2003 in specialty TV sales before going to *Astral Media*.

Mary Ellen Fleming, 65, of a massive heart attack in Mexico. She had spent 30+ years in the broadcast industry, including being instrumental in the start-ups of *YTV*, *The New VI Victoria* (now *CTV Vancouver Island*) and *Gusto TV*. Fleming also worked with *Canwest Global*, *CKWS-TV Kingston* and *CTV Toronto*. She was the wife of **Ed Yiu**, widely known in broadcast engineering circles.

Jürgen Gothe, 71, in Vancouver of cancer. The former *CBC Radio 2* host of *DiscDrive* was at the reins of that show for 23 years.

Rich Griffin, 52, of a brain aneurysm in Sudbury. He was host of the morning show at *KiSS 105.3 Sudbury*, holding that position at *Rogers* the last 14 years. In a multi-owner tribute, *Newcap's Hot 93.5* and *REWIND 103.9*, *Larche's KICX 91.7*, *Laurentian University's CKLU-FM*, Christian station *CJTK-FM*, and *Rogers's* two other Sudbury stations—*91.7* and *Q92*—participated in a moment of silence for Griffin.

Don Harron, 90, better known for his comedic persona, **Charlie Farquharson**—the country bumpkin from Parry Sound wearing a grey cardigan and spouting incessant puns, in Toronto. He'd chosen not to seek treatment for cancer. Harron introduced Charlie Farquharson to *CBC* viewers in 1952's show, *Spring Thaw*. In the late '60s he began an 18-season stint on American TV's country version of *Laugh-in*, called *Hee Haw*. In the '70s, he was a regular contributor to *CFRB Toronto's* programming and, from 1977 to 1982, he was host of *CBC Radio's Morningside*. He also authored 17 books, among many other accomplishments.

Doug Hidlebaugh, 60, in Saskatchewan after complications from heart surgery. He began his broadcasting career at *CKBI Prince Albert* in the mid '70s. In the early '80s, he moved to Saskatoon, then to Regina and Melfort before finishing his career as a northern sales representative for *CJWW Saskatoon*.

Larry Hudson, after a lengthy illness, in St. Alban's, NL. The *CBC* reporter began in 1971, working in both television and radio. Hudson's best known story was the 1985 *Arrow Air* disaster at Gander in which 356 American lives were lost. He retired in 1992.

Paul Hudson, 70, in Toronto. He's best known to broadcasters as the president of *McCurdy Radio*. *McCurdy* audio equipment was a mainstay at the *CBC* and at private broadcasters across the country for decades.

Chris Hyndman, 49, in Toronto of undisclosed or unknown causes. He was partnered with Steven Sabados in their *CBC-TV* design show, *Steven and Chris*, and in their private lives. The two were married in 2008. Hyndman's body was found in a downtown Toronto alley (Broadview & Queen) that connected his parking spot with their house. In 2001, the two co-hosted *Designer Guys* on *HGTV Canada* and followed with *Design Rivals* and the *Slice* series *So Chic with Steven and Chris* before debuting *Steven and Chris* on CBC in 2008.

Max Keeping, 73, of cancer in Ottawa. Keeping, a working journalist for 52 years, was the anchor of *CTV News Ottawa* for 38 years before retiring in 2010, and he was the "Godfather" of local charities. Keeping established a foundation in his name, was the M.C. of telethons, was a hero in championing such events as *The Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life*, and had a wing of *CHEO*, the *Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario*, named in his honour. Keeping was inducted into the *Canadian Association of Broadcaster's Hall of Fame*, was a member of the *Order of Canada*, and a member of the *Order of Ontario*.

André Lallier, 52, of cancer in Montreal. He was the content director at *ÉNERGIE 94.3* and *CHOM 97.7 Montreal*. Lallier joined *CKMF* (now *ÉNERGIE*) in 1983. His career began at now-defunct *Radiomutuel*, then *Astral* and *Bell Media*.

John Larocque, 79, in St. Catharines of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. Known as the *Mayor of the Morning*, Larocque's last stop before semi-retiring was at *CHSC St. Catharines* from 1971 through 1996 when the station was rated #1 and owned by the late Robert Redmond. Before that, he did mornings at *CKTB St. Catharines* for six years. And before that, he was in mornings at *CKOC Hamilton* for nine years before moving to *CKTB*. Current *CKTB* morning host Tim Denis said of Larocque: "*He was class through and through, always had time to talk and was the voice that thousands associate with real local radio.*"

Fred Latremouille, 69, in Phoenix. The on-air host was a staple of the Vancouver radio scene over three decades, from the '80s until his retirement in 2007. He began his radio career at *CKYL Peace River* when he was 16. Later, he went on to work in television as an actor and as a weatherman. The *Canadian Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame* member also has a star on the *B.C. Walk of Fame*. Latremouille and his later-to-become wife, **Cathy Baldazzi**, were co-hosts of the *CFUN Vancouver* morning show in the '80s and early '90s. In 1993, they moved to *KISS-FM Vancouver* mornings for what turned out to be a seven-year stay. At that point, the couple retired. But, six years later, they were back, this time at *CLEAR FM Vancouver* with a revived "*Latremornings*". A year later, however, the Latremouilles decided it really was time to retire.

Terry LeDrew, 62, in western Newfoundland. She had been a *CBC-TV* journalist and radio producer until her retirement two years ago. LeDrew covered stories in Central Newfoundland and up and down the west coast of the island ranging from Cuban defectors in Gander to court trials in Corner Brook.

Regan Lee Smith, 40, of a heart attack in Oakville. The mother of two had worked in sales for seven and a-half years at *Durham Radio*, first at *The Wave Hamilton* and then at that station's successor, *KX 94.7 Hamilton*.

Jim Leek, 58, at Key Largo, FL. The *JOY 1250 (CJYE) Oakville* morning host/music director had been scuba diving in the Florida Keys but shortly after re-surfacing became unresponsive. Before joining as a full-time employee, Leek was host of a Christian music program which aired on the station.

Graham Leggat, *TSN's* soccer commentator and host of several shows, including *Soccer Saturday* and *World of Soccer*. Leggat joined *TSN* in 1986 and provided analysis on the *FIFA World Cup*, *UEFA Euro* and the *Canadian Soccer League*. A champion of the sport, Leggat was inducted into the *Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame* in 2001.

Siggi Leipold, 75, in Toronto of cancer. Leipold did German programming in the Toronto area, beginning at *CKQT-FM Oshawa* and later, in 1980, moving to *CING FM Burlington*. In 1995, he moved to *AM 530 (CIAO) Toronto* where, until three weeks prior to his death, he continued his on-air presence.

Doug Lennox, 77, in Toronto. The prolific Toronto voiceover artist began in radio at *CKAR Huntsville* in 1965. From there, it was to *CKBB Barrie* and *CKVR-TV Barrie*, *CHFI Toronto*, and *CBC Radio & Television Toronto*. Lennox was also known for *Now You Know*, his radio and book trivia series. He was on the big screen in such movies as *Police Academy* and *Police Academy 3*.

Dakota Leslie, 19, in Abbotsford after being hit by a car. Leslie worked at *CIVL Abbotsford* (University of the Fraser Valley) as an on-air host.

Al McCann, 85, in Edmonton. The play-by-play sports announcer was with *CFRN-TV Edmonton* and *CTV* for 30 years before his retirement in 1993. McCann's broadcast career included being the sports director at *CJOC Lethbridge* from 1954 until moving to Edmonton in 1963.

Marguerite McDonald, 73, of cancer in Ottawa. She was the inaugural host of *CBC Radio's* political affairs show *The House* and was a journalist on both *CBC-TV* and radio. In the early years, after 12 years as a nun, she left the convent and began a journalism job at *CBC Calgary*. In 1983, McDonald was appointed the social affairs correspondent, making her the *CBC's* first female *TV* national news reporter based in Ottawa.

Dale McLeod, 52, suddenly in Calgary. She had been in radio sales for 25 years with *Corus Radio Calgary*.

Ben Meisner, 76, in Winnipeg's Health Science Centre of advanced bone marrow cancer. He was known as the *Voice of the North* in Prince George, Meisner's home for more than 40 years. His 60-year broadcasting career began at *CKDM Dauphin*. Later, he worked in markets such as Winnipeg, Toronto, Yorkton, Red Deer, Kamloops and at *CKPG Prince George*. He was host of the *Meisner Program* on CKPG for upwards of 30 years. He was also a senior bencher with the *Law Society of BC*, a recipient of the *Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee* medals and a Lifetime Achievement Award from *RTDNA*.

Bob Merchant, 69, at Langley Memorial Hospital. Before leaving radio he'd been an announcer at *CKXL Calgary*, *CICA Edmonton*, *CHNL Kamloops*, *CFUN Vancouver* and *CISL Richmond*.

Jim Miller, 84, in Sudbury. He joined his father and partners (the Cooper and Plaunt families) at *Cambrian Broadcasting* in Sudbury as executive VP. In 1960, he moved west to head up newly purchased *CKRM Regina* as president of *Western Communications Ltd.* and remained there for a decade.

Nick Carmin Misisco, 67, of brain cancer at Maple Ridge. B.C. Most recently, he was the Western Canada senior manager of client solutions at *Rogers Communications*. Misisco's broadcast background included *CKO Vancouver*, and *CKVU-TV Vancouver (Canwest Global, Shaw Media)*.

Wade Moffatt, 47, after a battle with alcoholism and a bipolar disorder. The former *CTV Saskatchewan* VP/GM began producing spots at *CFQC-TV Saskatoon*, moved into advertising sales and then became the general sales manager for CTV Saskatchewan before moving to the top job. He'd been with CTV for 21 years when he left in late 2012.

Dick Moody, 88. The veteran broadcast sales executive began his career in 1956 at *CJOB Winnipeg* as the sales promotion manager and worked his way up to assistant station manager. In 1964, he moved to *Standard Broadcast Sales* in Toronto, and became president of SBS in 1971. He left the company in 1985 and from 1986-91 was executive director of the *Ontario Cable Telecommunications Association*.

Eric Neville, suddenly of a heart attack at his central Alberta acreage. Known on CFRN-TV Edmonton as **Klondike Eric**, the former broadcaster was best known for his work on *Popcorn Playhouse* and as the weatherman for the 6 p.m. newscast.

Pete Nordheimer, 93, in Newmarket, ON. Nordheimer was one of *CHUM Toronto's* original DJs back in 1958. His contemporaries were Bob Laine, Al Boliska, Jay Nelson, John Spragge, Dave Johnson, Mike Darrow and Bob McAdorey.

Mike O'Brien, 51, of cancer in Winnipeg. The former *CBC* comedy writer and actor appeared in several episodes of *Corner Gas* and *Less Than Kind*, and wrote the book *Calling the Prairies Home*. O'Brien also worked with *Kids in the Hall* actor and co-creator Mark McKinney.

Janice Paradis, 48, of cancer in Grand Falls, N.B. She had been sales and market manager of *Bell Media's K93 Grand Falls* though her illness had kept her away from the job for two and a-half years.

Jim Perry, 82, in Eagle Point, OR, of cancer. Perry is best known here as the 21-year host of the *Miss Canada Pageant* on *CTV* and for successful *CTV* shows during the years between 1965-1991, including game shows *Fractured Phrases*, *Definition* and *Headline Hunters*. American game shows he hosted included *Card Sharks* and *Sale of the Century*.

Christine Pierce, 58, of cancer at her home in Cameron (near Lindsay, ON). Most recently, she had been *Novanet's* customer service manager at head office in Ajax. Pierce had been with the company for nine years.

Ed Polanski, 82, in Athabasca. He established one of Alberta's first cable TV systems there in 1960. Later, Polanski was among a group of investors who won a CRTC licence for a cable company (*QCTV*) serving the western half of Edmonton. He was *QCTV's* first chairman/CEO and stayed in those positions for 16 years. During that time, the company grew its cablevision systems to include 32 Alberta towns and cities.

Richard Proulx, 70, in Gatineau of cancer. The legendary French-language radio morningman began at *CJRC 1150 Ottawa-Hull* when the station launched in 1968. He later was morning host across the river at *CKCH 970 Hull-Ottawa*. Proulx was the first in-house bilingual announcer at *Ottawa Senators* home games. He returned to *CJRC* in mornings, retiring from there in 1998.

Willie Renz, 83, in Toronto of a massive heart attack while on his daily walk. The broadcast technologist began his career as an electrician working for *Superior Cable* in Thunder Bay where he gained insight into specializing on cable headend systems. In 1970, Renz began installing and servicing FM, TV and microwave antenna systems across Canada. He was presented with the *Lifetime Achievement Award* by the *Central Canada Broadcast Engineers (CCBE)* at its 2012 convention. "He's probably serviced nearly every broadcast antenna or tower in the country during his career as an antenna technician," said *Grundy Telecom's* John McKay.

Bob Rice, 72, suddenly at his home in Newton Robinson, Ont., about an hour north west of Toronto. Rice, known to *CKEY Toronto* listeners as **Captain Bob**, was part of the morning team that included Keith Rich, Robert Payne and Dini Petty. He broadcast traffic reports from the helicopter and fixed wing airplane that he piloted. He left CKEY in 1987 and worked on writing columns, developing radio programs and continuing as the announcer of the *International Air Show* at the *Canadian National Exhibition* (CNE) in Toronto.

Glen “Robbie” Robitaille, 97, in Kamloops. Born in Toronto, he began at *CKWX Vancouver* in 1934 as a “gofer”, moving up to becoming a transmitter attendant, an operator and then an announcer. In 1942, he left to join the *Royal Canadian Air Force*. After his discharge in 1945, he began with *RCA* in Montreal. It was in 1949 that Robitaille settled down, taking the director of engineering position at *CFPL London* and, later, *CFPL-TV*. Retirement came in 1983. Robitaille was also the first chairman of the *Canadian Telecasting Practices Committee*, the first chairman of the *Central Canada Broadcasters Association’s* Engineering Section and was Chairman of the *Canadian Standards Association Technical Committee* on videotape standards. He was also a founding member of the Canadian section of the *Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers*.

Gordie (Gordon Allen) Rose, 90, at New Westminster. During his 35-year broadcasting career, he was host of the *DX Prowl* on *CKMO Vancouver* (1945) and worked as an announcer and copywriter at *CHWK Chilliwack* from 1945 to 1953. In 1953 he joined the *CKNW New Westminster* news department. Two years later, Rose moved to *CFUN Vancouver* (formerly *CKMO*). In 1963 he helped launch *CJJC Langley* where he was assistant manager. In 1965 he returned to *CHWK* where he anchored the 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. newscasts until his retirement in 1980.

Renee Roth, in Toronto of cancer. She was a regional VP at *Marketron* and an associate professor at *Humber College* at her passing. Before that, Roth was president of *RHR Development* and a GSM at *Corus Entertainment*.

Allan Rowe, 59, in Halifax-Dartmouth. Rowe, a Nova Scotia Liberal backbencher, had been the anchor on *Global Television’s* local supper hour newscast up until 2012. In the 2013 provincial election, he was elected to the Nova Scotia legislature. Rowe suffered a ruptured aneurysm when he was shovelling snow and was admitted to hospital. He began as a reporter when the station was known as *MITV*.

Robert Daly Scott, 88, in Edmonton. The 50-year-plus technician at *CFRN TV/Radio Edmonton* was the transmitter expert as well as the one to call when it came to the EMI cameras.

Tony (Antoine) Seuret, 74, of cancer in Thunder Bay. His 25-year career as VP/GM at twin-stick *Thunder Bay Television* and, in later years, *Rock 94.3/CKPR 91.5*, owned by *Dougall Media*, the parent company of *Thunder Bay Television*, followed his 10 years at *Lakehead University* where he was a professor in the School of Business, then Chair.

Louis Ralph (Bud) Sherman, 88, in Winnipeg after a short illness. The former print journalist moved into television in 1960, becoming *CJAY-TV Winnipeg's* director of news and public affairs, anchorman and host of a public affairs program. In 1965, Sherman became the PC MP for Winnipeg South. He was appointed as a *CRTC* commissioner in 1985 and became vice-chairman of telecommunications in 1987. Sherman worked for the *CRTC* for more than 10 years.

Bob Simon, 73, in Manhattan after a town car in which he was riding crashed with another vehicle. The long-time *CBS 60 Minutes* correspondent was among a handful of elite journalists to cover most major overseas conflicts and news stories since late 1967. He'd been contributing to *60 Minutes* on a regular basis since 1996.

Dennis Skene, 74, in Surrey after a lengthy illness. The *CBC* broadcaster/journalist and author began his career at *CBC Ottawa* in 1973 as a producer. Skene stayed with the public broadcaster, working in Winnipeg, Halifax, Edmonton and Calgary before going to *CBC Vancouver* as director of television from 1988 through 1991.

Harold Smith, 91, in Chatham. The former host of *CFCO Chatham's* farm show began in 1962 after pitching it in the market where, though heavily agricultural, had minimal farm reporting. He was inducted into the *Kent Agricultural Hall of Fame* in 1993.

Rick Smith, 77, in Thunder Bay. The long-time *CKPR* radio and television personality spent over four decades of his 46-year broadcast career with *Dougall Media*, the owner of *CKPR*. He retired in September, 2006.

Wally Stambuck, 85, at Salt Spring Island. He and the late **Denny Carr**—of *The Wal 'n' Den Show*—are still regarded historically as the most successful morning radio team in Saskatchewan. In 1978, the *Wal 'n' Den* show on *CFQC Saskatoon* won *Billboard Magazine's* "Award of Broadcast Excellence" in the International Radio Programming category.

Les Stoodley, 75, of leukemia in Edmundston. The long-time *CBC* broadcaster is remembered for his work with recovering alcoholics and known for his 47 years of sobriety and his work with *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Stoodley began his broadcast career in 1963 in Gander, moved to Nova Scotia, and was a host of *CBC's Reach for the Top*. He retired from *CBC* in 2010.

Bob Switzer, 86, on Gambier Island. In the 1950s, Switzer worked in radio on Vancouver Island before moving to *CBC Television Vancouver* to host numerous programs, most notably gardening shows during the '80s and '90s. He retired in 1993.

Mark Valcour, 60, at his home near Ottawa. He was a product of *Carleton University's* engineering program, a *CKCU-FM* staffer and the school's audio technician since 1986. As one colleague noted, "*His devotion to radio and to mentoring—and his unwaveringly high standards—made him a hugely valuable part of every journalism student's education here since he arrived.*"

Brian Warshick, 62, in Dartmouth. The former city councillor worked in radio and television, beginning his radio career in Saint John.

Alberta Watson, 60, in Toronto of cancer. The actress had TV roles in *La Femme Nikita*, *24*, *The Newsroom*, *Heartland* and *The Border*. Her film credits include Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter*, Sarah Polley's *Away from Her*, David O. Russell's *Spanking the Monkey* and George Kaczender's *In Praise of Older Women*.

Barry White (Barry William Horne), 65, in Ottawa. For the last 10 years he was the afternoon host at *Jewel 98.5 Ottawa*. White's near 50-year career began at *CFDR Dartmouth* while still in school. He later worked at *CJCH Halifax*, *CKLW Windsor*, *CI00-FM Halifax*, *Q104 (CFRQ-FM) Dartmouth*, and in Malaysia in various programming capacities. He joined Evanov Radio in the early '90s.

David A. Williams, 94, in West Vancouver. His broadcast career was as a chartered accountant with Vancouver-based *WIC Western International Communications* and the Griffiths family. Williams retired from WIC in 1986.

BROADCAST Dialogue

Essential Reading

Christensen Communications Ltd. • 18 Turtle Path, Lagoon City ON • LOK 1B0 • howard@broadcastdialogue.com

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GENERAL:

Shaw Communications is selling its media division — including *Global Television* and 19 specialty channels — to *Corus Entertainment* for \$2.65 billion in cash and shares (\$1.85 billion in cash and about



71 million Corus non-voting class B shares). Despite the big price tag, the agreement doesn't change much about Shaw's ownership. Both companies are Shaw-family controlled through voting shares but are separately listed on the *TSX*. When the deal closes, expected by May 31, Shaw Communications will own about 39% of the equity in Corus. Corus would own 45 specialty and 15 conventional TV stations, 39 radio stations and the *Nelvana* content studio (among other assets). Corus CEO **Doug Murphy** says he sees operational efficiencies in the consolidation of facilities, platforms and systems as well as in programming expenditures. Integrations, he said, "are very important to manage with a careful touch but a quick one and we're going to not let any time lapse." The Global Television and

Corus radio markets across the country would benefit from the synergies of combo ad sales and news sharing. For Shaw, when "pick and pay" begins in March, cable and satellite customers will be able to order individual channels on an a la carte basis. With the strong likelihood of less revenue for unpopular specialty channels combined with Corus taking 19 specialty channels off Shaw's hands, Shaw gains more certainty about its future revenues. The *CRTC* must approve the transaction as must Corus's minority shareholders although the Commission's work, in this case, is administrative. The combined company would have English TV viewership comparable to *Bell Media's*. Combined revenue for Corus and Shaw Media in 2015 would have been \$1.9-billion. By combining the two companies, expected cost savings within two years is pegged at upwards of \$50-million annually...

Corus Entertainment's revenue for the first quarter of fiscal 2016 was \$228.3 million, up from \$228.1 million during the same quarter last year. The increase was attributed to the television division, which offset a decline in radio. Total net income was \$41.3 million, down from \$51.9 million in last year's quarter...

The Future of Canadian Telecommunications and Broadcasting, an invitation-only conference staged by the *C.D. Howe Institute* in Ottawa, heard from senior broadcasters and policymakers, academics and other experts. A summary of the content can be found [HERE](#), beginning on Page 17...

CBC News has returned to Moscow with what's described as a "new pocket bureau". Staffers are Correspondent Susan Ormiston, Producer Corinne Seminoff and Shooter-Editor Jean-Francois Bisson. It's a three-month posting...

Rick Arnish, the chairman of the *Jim Pattison Broadcast Group*, officially retires next Wednesday (Jan. 20) – the 47th anniversary of his entering the broadcast business – though he has one more duty to perform. He'll be representing the JPBG television stations, and as chair of the Small Market Independent Television Stations (SMITS) Coalition, at the *CRTC's* Let's Talk TV hearing the following week...

Corus Entertainment Kingston, during its 27th annual *Clothes for Kids Campaign*, raised \$83,000 so as to purchase and distribute 2,000 new snowsuits to children in need. Taking part were *CKWS TV*, *104.3 Fresh Radio* and *96.3 BIG FM*.

REVOLVING DOOR:
RMike Cooper of *CHFI-FM Toronto's* morning show with Erin Davis has announced his retirement. The 45-year broadcast veteran's last day on a regular shift is Jan. 29. He remains, however, as host of the weekly Saturday night show, *Coop's Classics*. Cooper had been with CHFI for 10 years. His other Toronto stops included *CHUM*, *CFTR*, *CJEZ-FM* and *CKFM*. He began at *CKAT-FM North Bay* and also worked in such markets as Ottawa, Montreal and Peterborough...

Kid Carson is no longer with *KiSS Vancouver*. Former Kid Carson Show co-host Randi Chase returns to head up the *KiSS Breakfast* with current show personalities Andrew Sosa and Susie Hill. Chase made her last appearance on the show Dec. 11. *KiSS*, formerly *Sonic*, hired Carson in July, 2012. Before that, he'd been with then-*The Beat 94.5*. Carson was named *Broadcast Performer of Tomorrow* at the 2006 convention of the *British Columbia Association of Broadcasters*...



Mike Cooper

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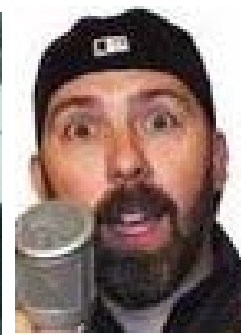
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Bill Carroll, the Canadian talk show host who moved from *CFRB Toronto* to *KFI Los Angeles* six years ago, says he's moving "closer to home" though there's no indication yet if that means back to Eastern Canada or to, perhaps, an East Coast U.S. station. He'll remain in California until his children have completed their school year. His contract with KFI was up. Carroll continues doing his afternoon talk show on *640 (CFMJ) Toronto* from Los Angeles...

Bill Scott, after more than 50 years on the air in the New Brunswick capital, has retired from *Bell Media Fredericton*. Tomorrow (Friday), the public is invited to an open house at *The Fox, Capital FM* and *Country KHJ* to celebrate Scott's career. He began at *CFNB-AM* (later to become Capital FM) in 1965...



Bill Scott



Mark Morris

Mark Morris moves across the road to become the p.m. drive announcer next week at *92 CITI FM Winnipeg*. He leaves his midday position at *QX 104* after his shift tomorrow (Friday). Morris succeeds **Shadoe Davis** at CITI...

Dave Hughes, four months after his retirement — and after being part of the ownership of *Pineridge Broadcasting* in Cobourg/Peterborough that was sold to *My Broadcasting Corp.*— is back at work. Hughes is an account executive at *Durham Radio Oshawa*...

Robyn Crosby is now with *SoCast* (digital platform for radio) in Toronto as a sales/account executive. Her background includes *Nlogic* (formerly BBM Analytics), *Corus London*, *CHUM/CTVglobemedia London* and *Larche Communications*...

Erica Johnson, a 15-year veteran of *CBC-TV's Marketplace*, is moving to the Corporation's *Go Public* segment on radio, TV and digital platforms. Based in Vancouver, Johnson will pair with **Rosa Marchitelli**, who works in Calgary...



Erica Johnson



Dames Nellias

Dames Nellias adds music director to his on-air duties at *99.9 Virgin Radio Toronto*.

SIGN-OFFS:

SPaul Dorazio, 74, in Edmonton. Known on-air as **Paul Revere**, he was a programmer and a rock jock at such far flung locales as St. John's, NL, Hamilton, Thunder Bay and at *CKRM Regina*. He was a jock at the old *CFGM-AM Toronto*, then a powerhouse of country music and located above a Richmond Hill drug store. He rocked at *CKPR-AM Thunder Bay* in the early '70s. Revere owned 10-thousand 45 RPMs and five-thousand LPs. As he delved into the musical past he'd say, *"I'll bring back memories you never thought you had"*. Revere had also been active in Regina community radio...

Brian Sawyer, a month short of his 76th birthday, in Montreal. Known on the broadcast technical side countrywide, Sawyer's career began in 1962 at *Maple Leaf Broadcasting*, then the owner of *CHML-AM* and *CHCH-TV Hamilton*. Later, he worked in engineering capacities at *CFTO-TV Toronto*, *CFGM Richmond Hill*,

his own consultancy for nine years, *CBC's* engineering headquarters in Montréal, *Advanced Transmission Solutions* in Montréal and, most recently, *Yves R. Hamel and Associates* in Montréal...



George Jonas

George Jonas, 80, in Toronto. The author and columnist, who'd been ill for a number of years, emigrated to Canada in 1956 and went to work for the *CBC* as a producer. He was with the public broadcaster for over three decades. Most recently, Jonas was a columnist for the *National Post*.

TELEVISION/VIDEO:

The *CRTC*, ruling on *Rogers's* elimination of all daily newscasts at *OMNI TV*, said the move doesn't violate *OMNI's* conditions of licence. In a dissenting opinion, Ontario Commissioner **Raj Shoan** wrote that "by denying the applications but taking no meaningful action to address the legitimate concerns of the applicants and interveners, the Commission is abdicating its leadership role with respect to the creation of effective ethnic broadcasting policy in this country"...

The *CRTC* has launched an online discussion forum on local and community television programming which, it says, will serve as a platform to answer questions regarding sufficient local events coverage, improvements to community channels, among other topics. A survey showed that 81% of Canadians believe local news is important. That being the case, says the Commission, approaches for ensuring access to local information and community access programming on multiple platforms must be identified. The online discussion will close Feb. 3...

Cogeco CEO **Louis Audet** shares the frustrations about video on demand services such as *Netflix* but says he's opposed to tighter supervision of the Internet. *Netflix* has been accused by Canadian BDUs of taking a free taxes and distribution ride while reaping significant revenues. **Audet's** concern about government imposing Internet restrictions would be the likelihood of ending with censorship. **Audet**, just before *Cogeco's* AGM, said *Netflix*, at peak times, uses upwards of 40% of all network broadband traffic yet pays no compensation. Later, during the AGM, a new logo and a string of changes to *Cogeco's* divisions were revealed, including the renaming of *Cogeco Cable* to *Cogeco Connexion*...

The *CRTC's* new rules for cable and satellite companies regarding billing stipulates that the providers give customers clearer details about the duration of promotional offers and the prices they'll be billed once those discounts end. They're also required to outline taxes and additional charges such as those linked to TV services and fees on early cancellations. The code becomes mandatory Sept. 1, 2017...

CBS Sports will debut some new gadgetry on its broadcast of *Super Bowl 50* Feb. 7 from *Levi's Stadium* in Santa Clara, CA. The replay system will provide a 360-degree perspective, 36 cameras around the stadium can freeze the moment and revolve around the play before continuing to show the scene, and viewers will be able to check out the quarterback's view from the pocket to other players' perspectives on the field...

TVO's The Agenda, with host **Steve Paikin**, has embarked on a new digital strategy employing multiple platforms, including *Facebook* and *Twitter*. The show's new format features segments that work in shorter takes online. The large reason for the new digital approach is to attract younger audiences. Now, the majority

of the show's viewers are over 65 and there's little chance of increasing the base which watches on television...

Martin Short will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the *Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television*. ACCT cites his "boundless" creativity, talent and exuberance. The ceremony will air on *CBC* March 13...

Groupe Média TFO has refreshed the visuals of its French-language TFO Network, launching a new multiplatform identity...

The *Canadian Broadcast Standards Council*, in a [decision](#) concerning coarse language on *CHOT-DT Gatineau*, concludes that a broadcast contained unedited coarse language before the watershed hour of 9 p.m. and did not include viewer advisories.

RADIO/AUDIO:

Dufferin Communications, owned by the *Evanov Radio Group*, has dropped its application to acquire *CFWC-FM Brantford*. The English-language specialty station (Christian music) is owned by *Sound of Faith Broadcasting*...

Durham Radio has two HD stations on the air in Hamilton, *WAVE-FM 94.7* (CHKX HD-2) and *CHKX* HD-1. The former programs Smooth Jazz while the latter simulcasts programming from *Country KX94.7*. Smooth Jazz *WAVE 94.7* (*CIWV-FM*) launched on the 2000 Labour Day weekend and maintained the jazz format for 11 years before moving to Country and an ID change to *KX 94.7 FM*. Smooth Jazz was maintained as an Internet station (<http://www.wave.fm/>)...



Community station *CKHR-FM Hay River* may have to sign-off if it can't find either new accommodations or added funding. After 37 years, CKHR is confronting the possibility of going off the air perhaps as soon as March...

Funding's also an issue with *CKRH-FM Halifax*, Halifax-Dartmouth's only French language community station. It owes \$60,000 to *Revenue Canada* and has also launched a *Gofundme* campaign to raise \$20,000 to help cover operating costs for the next year. The station has been operating since Oct., 2007.

SUPPLYLINES:

Ross Video is among companies to win the *67th Annual Technology & Engineering Emmy Award* for openGear, showing excellence in engineering creativity.

Flooded with memories



by Sharon Taylor

These days it feels like everything is starting to pile up. Pounds, clutter, marriages and, most pointedly, deaths.

The worst of it is that the people who are dying, damn it, are people I actually know: Relatives, parents, people I worked for and with. People my age.

Gary Russell, as most readers know, passed away over Christmas from cancer.

I knew Gary as an associate, a colleague. Never worked in the same building and didn't know him as well as so many others. However, his passing jerked me back in time and I was flooded with memories.

Today I'm in the city where Gary was born –Winnipeg. I loved his story about watching the Rose Bowl Parade as a child and realizing that this sunny, floral parade was LIVE, yet it was snowy and in all likelihood minus-30 or more outside. He confronted his dad who explained that some places never have winter. Gary was then forever able to pinpoint the moment he first asked himself and his family, "...then why are we living here?"

While he worked in many markets, most of my memories are from when he ruled Vancouver. First when we both worked for Moffat and then later for Standard.

When I was with Moffat some of the PDs in that chain were Sandy Davis, Steve Young, Pat Bohn, Gary Russell, Kevin McKanna, Don Shafer, Brad Phillips and Gord Robson. We worked for GMs the likes of Roy Hennessy, Alden Diehl, Keith James, Don Kay, Stan Ravendahl and Vern Traill.

Head office in Winnipeg consisted of owner Randy Moffat, operations VP Jim McLaughlin and national PD Chuck McCoy (Gary's brother), a position that I think Gary also once held.

Radio was largely owned by families lead by the likes of Allan and Jim Waters, Ted Rogers, Alan and Gary Slaight, Randy Moffat and Gordon Rawlinson. Profits were good and stress was mostly self-imposed.

I was the newest and youngest PD and as such my first job was in Moose Jaw, Moffat's smallest market and training ground. Gary was at the center of the Moffat "Rat Pack". All these guys were experienced and had swagger. Gary was major market successful; confident, connected, always the best dressed and as suave as hell.

There were legendary names in the sales and business departments at Moffat too, but they revolved in a different orbit than I did. Ditto all the sales gurus who took out empty money bags and brought them back full. Radio was truly a blend of art and commerce.

As PDs we didn't concern ourselves with quarters, boards, shareholders, margins or "the street". We didn't worry about staff discord in the building or if there was enough toilet paper in the washrooms. We were utterly one-sided. Moffat was a programming company and we (cue the production) were The Programmers. And programming was a much different animal than it is today. For example there was almost no research. Affordable, reliable and informational research was still on the horizon. It was an analog world where producers worked with tape, razors and grease pencils, the logs rolled off typewriters.

It was pre-Internet so nerds like us listened to other radio stations by either travelling or convincing folks in far-off markets to record stations for us and send the tapes by mail (and we would return the favour). Every market was rated by the diary system and bound ratings books were distributed into eager hands three- or four-times a year.

Armed with weekly calls to the record stores (getting the clerk who answered the phone to rate sales between one and 10 on current hits) along with sketchy information culled from the request lines, we would spend days, nights and overnights working on music systems and clocks and positioning statements and liners and jingle placements. We would pour over the "super gold" and "gold" music lists (CHRs played some gold back then). We would reformat and reposition our stations on paper just to rip it up and start all over again. It was all so important.

Our crappy apartments would be rigged so when you turned on a light, the radio would also come on. When shower radios first appeared in stores radio programmers had to be the first in line to buy.

Hours were spent talking about control room boards, great production, mics, processors, motivating and directing talent. Should promos go first into commercials or last after a stop-set? We talked with engineers about “the sound” and loudness of our stations and our competitors. We would poach ideas, contests, read R&R and RPM every week and look forward to conventions.

Conventions were especially fun albeit awkward for me; I was the least experienced and always the only girl. The shenanigans were legendary and Gary and Pat Bohn were usually in the middle of some of the best.

I’m a vault for the best secrets but, as an example, what numbers do you think PDs used to program the security pads (this was after keys and before swipe cards) on their hotel room doors?

Their station’s frequency, of course!

Get in when your friend is out and bring a bag to carry back all the minibar loot. Which stations frequency would they use? There was a PD for every station back then. No guessing required.

Without most of the support available today, and without the ability to just go online and FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT EVERYTHING, Gary Russell and guys like him created the radio and groomed the radio people who lifted stations from average to legendary. They took in everything, mulled it over, talked it out and then figured out what to do and did it.

It was the programmers who built the value and reputation of the radio franchises, with all due respect to the owners and GMs who created the positive environment (e.g. CKY/CITI Winnipeg gave away CARS at Christmas parties!).

Today the pile-on has started for real. If we are among the lucky ones who live into our 80s and beyond, the end prize remains the same. Long life but few if any people left who remember what we remember, who know what we know because they, too, were there.

Perhaps most importantly, moving through our 60s, 70s and 80s there will be fewer and fewer people who knew what each of us were like when we were in our 20s and 30s.

Through a specific period of Gary Russell’s life I was a fangirl masquerading as a colleague. Gary was warm and kind and supportive to me at a time not all were.

RIP Gary and thank you for everything. I am so grateful I was in the room back when we were all so young.

Oh, and he worked at CKLW. CKLW!

Sharon Taylor is a career broadcaster who still turns up the radio between songs. She can be reached at sharontaylorradio@gmail.com.



BROADCAST Dialogue

Essential Reading

Christensen Communications Ltd. • 18 Turtle Path, Lagoon City ON • L0K 1B0 • howard@broadcastdialogue.com

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TELEVISION/VIDEO:

TCTV Atlantic is facing a charge of breaching Canada's *Youth Criminal Justice Act* for broadcasting video showing two youths accused in a home invasion. The video showed the youths walking out of a courtroom escorted by sheriffs to an elevator where they'd be taken to cells. CTV Atlantic is due in court Feb. 9. (*Editor's note: On a related topic, the shortcut broadcast journalists use by saying "Two young offenders have been..." instead of "Two youths have been charged under the young offenders act..." is irksome. The former assumes guilt in the current case or, equally prejudicial, alludes to previous criminal behaviour.*)...

4K television appears ready for its close-up after years in the consumer wilderness. TSN and Rogers both scheduled 4K broadcasts this week, the *Raptors-Celtics* NBA game on TSN and the *NHL Leafs-Canadiens* match-up on Rogers. Up until now, the TVs didn't have the 4K content to offset their expensive price. The difference between 4K and HD sets is the horizontal resolution. 4K has 4,000 pixels, about four times as much as HD. Rogers has invested in the technology, promising to televise 100 games in 4K; 81 *Blue Jays* home games and at least 20 NHL games. Rogers has built two mobile production trucks and a new master control room for the signals, and has done so even though only a few hundred people have the boxes available to watch it. Rogers also promises regular programming in 4K...



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While *Bell Media* has expanded *CraveTV* service to all Internet-connected Canadians, *Netflix* says it's cracking down on those who use virtual private networks (VPN) and proxy services to view content not available in Canada. CraveTV competes with Netflix and *shomi* (the *Rogers-Shaw* partnership). There are those in Canada who use VPN services to stream Netflix programming available in the U.S. where there are twice as many movie and TV show titles...

Bell Media's application to convert *Bravo*, *The Comedy Network*, *Discovery Channel*, *E!*, *MTV Canada*, *Much*, *M3* (formerly *MuchMoreMusic*) and *Space* from Category A to Category B services has been denied by the *CRTC*...

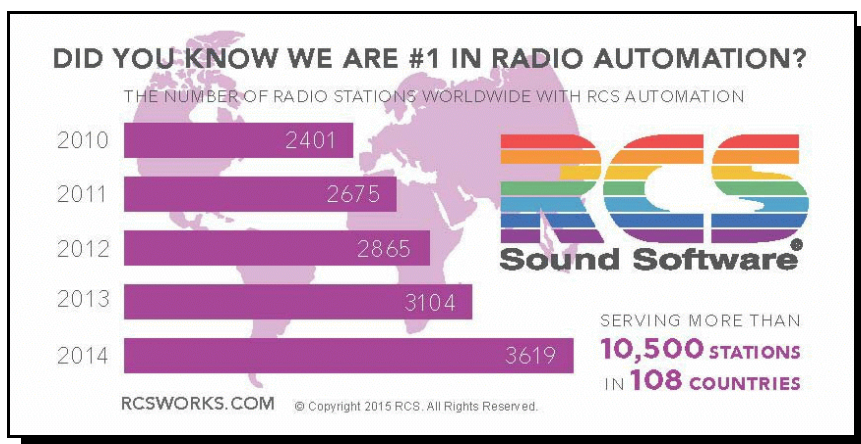
A federal appeal court heard arguments Tuesday on *Bell Mobility's* TV app in a case that appears to be directly atop the line between laws governing telecommunications and those that deal with broadcasting. The app lets customers stream live and on-demand programming on their mobile devices. Before the *CRTC* ordered Bell to desist, Bell charged \$5 a month for the app and allowed users to stream up to 10 hours of TV programming not applied to monthly wireless data caps. This, said the *CRTC*, gave Bell's app an unlawful preference over other services which do count against monthly caps. The appeals court will have to determine if the app is a broadcasting or telecom service, a decision not expected until late this year. Bell argued that the app was mistakenly characterized by the Commission as a telecom service rather than as a broadcasting undertaking...

The 2016 *Canadian Screen Awards* nominations in 132 categories (24 film, 101 in television and seven in digital media) have been announced. They can be found [HERE](#). The awards show will air live from Toronto March 13 on *CBC-TV*.

RADIO/AUDIO:

Rosalie Trombley, 76, often described as "one of the most influential persons in radio history" and "the girl with the golden ear," is being recognized this year with a special award at the Junos (the *Walt Grealis Special Achievement Award*). The legendary MD at *CKLW Windsor* during the *Big 8* era is credited with making the careers of such Canadian music icons as **Gordon Lightfoot** and *The Guess Who*. As MD, Trombley's

knack for picking hits such as *These Eyes* and *If You Could Read My Mind* is said to have helped make such songs – and others – a part of the Canadian identity. The 2016 Juno awards is set for April 3 in Calgary... And still with Ms Trombley, a female powerhouse in the music business between 1967 and 1993, nominations are now open for this year's *Rosalie Award*. The nomination form for a woman achieving success and blazing trails in Canadian radio can be completed by clicking [HERE](#)...



Golden West Broadcasting's application to switch a 100-watt Cochrane repeater of its *CFIT-FM Airdrie* to a 4,800-watt standalone station has been denied by the *CRTC*. A group of intervenors from nearby Calgary – *Newcap*, *Corus*, *Harvard*, *Jim Pattison Broadcast Group*, *Bell Media* and *Rogers Media* – were concerned,

among other objections, that **GWB** was attempting to gain entry to the Calgary radio market. But **GWB** said its intention was to provide intense, **Cochrane**-focused programming...

Among applications to be considered March 22 at **CRTC** HQ in Gatineau is **Bayshore Broadcasting's** request for an English-language FM'er in Gravenhurst/Bracebridge. It would operate at 102.3 with effective power of 22,000 watts and program **Country**. It's a non-appearing hearing, and the deadline for interventions, comments or answers is Feb. 19.

REVOLVING DOOR:

Craig Letawsky, director, **Rogers Media**, GM Alberta, is no longer with the organization. The 15-year **Rogers** veteran started as an account manager at **Rogers Lethbridge**, then became a national account director at **Rogers Calgary**, then promoted to GM/GSM at **92 CITI/102.3 Clear FM Winnipeg**, moved to Vancouver as market sales manager before being appointed to his last position in November, 2013...



Craig Letawsky



Mark Campbell



Doug McCulloch

Mark Campbell, the Ottawa-based news/programming director of **1310News Ottawa** and **News 95.7Halifax**, is now also ND/PD for **570News Kitchener**. Campbell's history with the **Rogers** radio stations includes helping launch the three Atlantic news stations 11 years ago. He's been in Ottawa for 18 months. **Lisa Drew** and **Chris Pope**, who had been co-acting NDs, will continue as managing editors at **570News**...

Doug McCulloch will move from retail sales manager at **Newcap Edmonton** to become general sales manager at **Newcap Calgary**, effective April 4. McCulloch, a 21-year company veteran, moved from **Standard Radio's The Bear/CFRN Edmonton** where he'd been an account exec...

98.5 The Ocean Victoria has a new morning show. **A.J. (Cruze)**, a 15-year Victoria broadcast veteran (was with **Kool FM Victoria** doing middays), and **Lisa D. (Daigneault)**, who moves from **Canadian Traffic Network (CTN)**, will begin Feb. 22 although **A.J.** began on his own this past Monday. They succeed **Lisa Marshall** and **Michael Forbes**, the co-hosts since 1996 who were released from the **Rogers** station in November...

Kahla Buchanan is **CTV Regina's** new senior weather anchor, beginning Feb. 8. She moves up from **CTV Morning Live**. Buchanan joined the station in 2014 as a host and social media producer...



Kahla Buchanan



Scott McLean

Scott McLean moves to **CNN Newsource** in Washington from his reporter/anchor chores at **CTV Calgary**. He's conversant in French and Arabic...



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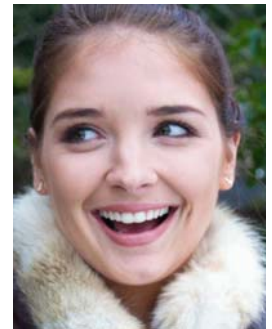


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Matt Vettese is the new afternoon drive host at *The One Wingham*. Vettese had been doing weekends/swing at *Magic 99.9 Thunder Bay*. Before that he was midday host at *YL Country Peace River*. He's also what's described at *Blackburn Wingham* as the "lead music programmer"...



Matt Vettese



Brittany Van Hemert

Brittany Van Hemert is the new MD at *Rock 101 Vancouver*. She'd been a part-time music/programming assistant there before going on maternity leave. Van Hemert's background includes MD/middays at *The Goat Lloydminster* and, before that, weekends/swing at *Jack FM Victoria*...

Maureen Norman is the new director, sales and marketing, at *Alibi Entertainment* in Toronto. Prior to this appointment, she was with *Shaw Media Marketing Ventures*. Norman joined Shaw Media (then *Canwest*) in 2008...

Emily Morgan, ex senior director of *Shaw Media's* lifestyle channels, has been appointed to be Montreal-based TV production house *Zone3's* Toronto executive. She had been VP of programming of *Food Network Canada*, *HGTV* and *DIY Canada* for *Canwest* and VP of programming: *Showcase Action*, *Diva* and *IFC* for *Alliance Atlantis*...

Lawrence Alecsuc, previously with *CTV Vancouver* for about 20 years, is the new senior broadcast technician at *Rogers Media Vancouver*.

SIGN-OFFS:

Angus Mackay, 67, of cancer. The early-days DJ at *CHOM FM* and, later at *Mix 96* in Montreal, introduced listeners to the likes of Van Morrison, Boz Scaggs and Jackson Browne. Mackay was part of the re-invention of FM, taking the frequency from Classical music programming to Rock. He was doing CHOM afternoons when the station was taken over by *FLO* extremists who insisted on broadcasting their demands. He and other staffers allowed the takeover. After a few minutes of airing their grievances, they got distracted and started playing music. Said Mackay, "It was just amusing to see the whole disintegration of their political agenda and how it evolved into a teen beat dance party"...



Angus Mackay

John Harvard, 77, in Winnipeg of cancer. The Liberal MP served 16 years in Parliament from 1988-2004, and was Manitoba's 23rd lieutenant governor from 2004-2009. He was a broadcast journalist from 1957 to 1988, working at *CBC* for 18 years and as the host of *CJOB Winnipeg's Talk Back*. (Eds Note: Incidentally, the late **Peter Liba**, a senior broadcaster at *CanWest*, was Harvard's predecessor as Manitoba lieutenant-governor.)...



Jack Mattenley

Jack Mattenley, 99, in Barrie. The *CKVR-TV (CTV Barrie)* pioneer was there back in the early 50s as operations manager under station owner *Ralph Snelgrove*. Later, he became the general manager, the vice-president/GM and sat on the board of directors at *CHUM Ltd.*, which purchased CKVR from Snelgrove...

Bev McRae, 70, in Ottawa unexpectedly. The former *CFRA Ottawa* host, the widow of legendary Ottawa journalist **Earl McRae**, was a regular fill-in host in the late 90s and early 2000s, and co-hosted *The Broad Perspective*.



BROADCAST Dialogue

Essential Reading

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Thursday, January 28, 2016

Volume 23, Number 34

RADIO: Radio execs across the country have been calling for a successor to the old *Radio Marketing Bureau* that would again be the united marketing voice of the industry. That desire has been met by the *Canadian Association of Broadcasters' CEO Radio Council* which says a new version of the RMB will be established in the coming months, with a team set to be in place by the spring. Its primary objective will be to research and develop presentations focusing on radio's ability to provide efficient results for advertisers. Council Chair, and *Corus Radio* President, Mario Cecchini says membership in the new bureau will be open to all private radio stations...



Exec. Director, Radio Marketing and Advocacy Organization - Toronto

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Durham Radio has an asset purchase agreement with *Vista Radio* to acquire the assets of *CKJN 92.9 Caledonia* (Haldimand County) which programs Country. But since Durham owns *Country KX94.7 (CHKX)* in nearby Hamilton a new format for Caledonia, as yet undetermined, is in the cards. Durham President/CEO Doug Kirk says there are no plans to move the station to Hamilton; that his intention is to provide a local service. The acquisition remains to be approved by the *CRTC*...

The *CRTC* has issued a call for comments on the appropriateness of a radio service for Grimsby and Beamsville in Southern Ontario. An application for an FM commercial licence by *Dufferin Communications* (an *Evanov Radio Group* company) sparked the comments call, due no later than Feb. 26. Dufferin wants the 88.5 dial position, one of the last known available area FM frequencies, at maximum power of 4,000 watts...

Legendary rocker **Burton Cummings**, says the *Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS)*, will be inducted into the *Canadian Music Hall of Fame* during the 45th annual *JUNO Awards* April 1 in Calgary. He's already a member of the Canadian Music Hall of Fame through *The Guess Who's* induction in 1987. This year it's his solo induction...

CKPG-AM Prince George, now 99.3 The Drive, will celebrate 70 years of service to the northern B.C. city on Feb. 5. Back in 1946, CKPG was Prince George's first radio station and remained the only one there for another 25 years. The *Jim Pattison Broadcast Group* station became 99.3 The Drive after being flipped from AM in 2003. Former CKPG/99.3 The Drive employees are invited to contact PD Ron Polillo with congratulatory messages...

The 17th annual *Corus Edmonton* Radiothon on *CISN Country 103.9FM*, in two days, raised \$1,334,381 for the *Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation*. The radiothon was sponsored by the four Corus radio stations and *Global Edmonton*...

A *Ryerson* professor has designed and created an interactive data tool to show the amount of diversity in Toronto's radio stations. The *Radio Television Arts (RTA) School of Media's* Lori Beckstead says her *Interactive Radio: Diversity on Air* is a radio showing the percentage of racialized male and female hosts at Toronto's top 22 stations, ranked according to audience share. Her research found only one of the stations has more female hosts than males and that the number of racialized people on all 22 stations is under 17%.



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TELEVISION/VIDEO:

An eight-day *CRTC* hearing on the future of local television began Monday in Gatineau in an effort to determine rule changes which may be necessary to ensure the survival of local and community television. Already, it's heard about funding issues related to Canada's changing media landscape, specifically the traditional ad-based financial model combined with consumers' viewing habits. Determinations the *CRTC* hopes to achieve include Canadians' satisfaction with television's local news coverage, alternative news sources to local TV, and the possibility of local community channels airing professional news. The Commission's goal is to ensure access to local information and community programming on multiple platforms. The hearings began with a warning that half of all channels could fold in five years...

While administrative approval was requested, and expected because there's no change in effective control, the *CRTC* is calling for comments on the *Corus-Shaw* deal that sees Corus take over *Global Television* and Shaw's specialty channels. Comments will be accepted up to and including Feb. 15. The Commission's rationale for stepping beyond administrative approval is the magnitude of the deal...

The late *Max Keeping*, a longtime anchor at *CTV Ottawa* and a champion for children's health, and who raised into the millions of dollars for the *Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario*, is about to be honoured by the city. Ottawa's mayor has put forward a motion asking that the pedestrian walkway over the Queensway from the baseball stadium to the train station be called the *Max Keeping Memorial Bridge*...

The federal Liberal cabinet has sided with the *CRTC*, allowing the *Oprah Winfrey Network* to continue broadcasting in Canada. The ruling upheld a 2015 decision allowing *Corus* to amend its licence so it could keep showing OWN programming originating in the U.S. A group representing Canadian TV producers petitioned the government, accusing the Commission of abandoning critical safeguards designed to protect independent producers in their dealings with Canada's largest private broadcasters...

Viceland, the new *Rogers* specialty channel, launches Feb. 29 across 25 carriers kicking off with a three-month free preview...

shomi has signed a deal with *Corus Entertainment* that locks up SVOD rights for a slate of *Nickelodeon* series: more than 700 half-hour episodes of 21 hit shows.

GENERAL:
GThe *Broadcasting Accessibility Fund*, created as part of the tangible benefits package associated with *BCE's* acquisition of *CTV*, will award \$723,500 in grants to seven projects. All are designed to advance accessibility to broadcasting content for Canadians with disabilities...

Rogers Media says it will eliminate in the neighbourhood of 200 positions from its conventional TV, radio and publishing arms beginning next month. Cost reduction is cited for the dismissals, reducing the *Rogers Media* workforce by 4%...

Thunder Bay's *Confederation College* is putting its broadcasting program on hiatus for at least a year because of low enrollment...

Rogers Communications had \$299 million of net income in its fourth quarter, bringing the total for 2015 to \$1.38 billion, both periods up slightly from 2014. The adjusted net income in the fourth quarter, however, fell to \$331 million from \$355 million. *Rogers* says 2015's revenue was \$13.4 billion, up from \$12.85 billion the year before.

EVOLVING DOOR:
RChris Boyce, a former executive director of radio and audio for the *CBC*, has joined *Pacific Content* as a principal. He'll be based in Toronto for the podcasting and branded content media company, based in Vancouver...



Chris Boyce



Trish Williams



Lesley Grant

At *Temple Productions* in Toronto, Trish Williams is now VP, scripted programming, and Lesley Grant is senior development producer, scripted programming. Williams was most recently the director of drama at *Bell Media's* independent production unit. Grant moved from *CTV* where she was a drama production executive...

Susan Tymofichuk has been promoted at *CTV Winnipeg* to managing editor. She had been supervising producer of the 6 p.m. newscast...

Rory Capern has succeeded former *CBC* Exec. VP Kirstine Stewart as the managing director of *Twitter Canada*, effective mid-February. He moves from *Google Canada* where he managed partnerships. The position had been vacant for a year and a-half after a promotion for Stewart to VP, Media North America...

Bob Willette is MD/midday host at 94.9 *The Rock Oshawa*. Before moving to the *Durham Radio* operation, he was the music director at *Virgin Radio Toronto*, having joined the *Bell Media* station in June of last year. Willette got caught in restructuring and left Virgin in November. Before that, he'd been the PD at *Proud FM Toronto* and was the *Evanov Radio Group's* regional PD for more than eight years...

Kath Thompson, the PD at 95.3 *The Peak Calgary* since March, 2014, is no longer there. Her career path includes programming, on-air, writing and producing responsibilities at *CBC Montreal*, *Astral*, *Rawlco*, *Rogers*, *The Canadian Press* and *Jim Pattison Broadcast Group*. Mike Shannon, the PD at sister station *Kool 101.5 FM*, adds programming duties for The Peak...

Craig Picton, the PD/midday host at *Blackburn Radio's 101.7 The ONE Wingham*, will become GM at *Harvard Broadcasting's Fort McMurray* stations (*100.5 CRUZ fm* & *MIX 103.7*). He rejoins Harvard Feb. 8. Picton was the first PD of the yet to be launched *MIX 103.7* in 2007. The station launched in January, 2008...

Don Landels, the operations manager/GSM at *KiSS 103.1/OCEAN 98.5 Victoria*, is no longer with the stations. Landels joined *Rogers Radio Victoria* in 1993 as an account manager. In 2007 he was promoted to GSM and later added ops manager duties to his role...

Brian Bailey, a morning show host at *Indie88 Toronto* since the station launched in Sept., 2013, has moved on. Before moving to Toronto he was the morning host at *Kool FM Victoria*, morning host at *Big 105 Red Deer* and MD/afternoon host at *Q92 Sudbury*. Matt Hart and Candice Knihnitski continue until a successor for Bailey is found...



Magalie Zafimehy

Julie Caron

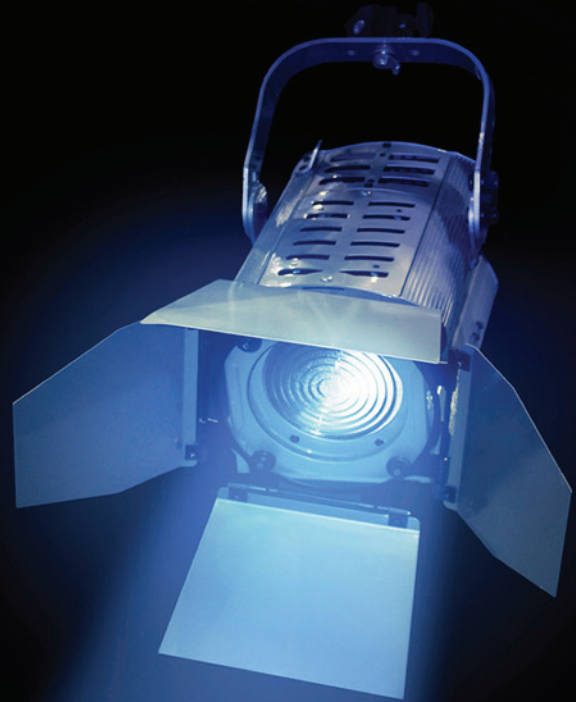
Magalie Zafimehy is *Groupe Média TFO's* new chief marketing officer in Toronto while Julie Caron has been promoted to chief digital learning officer.

In last week's **REVOLVING DOOR**, Brittany Van Hemert was mistakenly placed at another station as its new music director. Van Hemert, in fact, became the new MD at *CFOX Vancouver*.

 <p>THE JIM PATTISON BROADCAST GROUP LP</p>	<p>Broadcast I.T. Systems Specialist For Details on this Career Opportunity, or to Apply, click HERE.</p>
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“We’re not going to play defence on legacy business models. We have to disrupt ourselves.”

*—Shaw Communications
CEO Brad Shaw, May 2014*



Innovation at Global News

by Howard Christensen

Multi-Market Content (MMC) is Global Television’s response to a rapidly changing broadcast industry where long-term success, it says, can’t be based on the status quo. MMC has been in operation since last summer and produces/anchors the weekday late-night and weekend newscasts for eight stations: Global Halifax, Global New Brunswick, Global Montreal, Global Toronto, Global Winnipeg, Global Regina, Global Saskatoon and Global Okanagan. Dinnertime newscasts continue to be anchored locally and produced from a control room under the conventional linear model.

While these local weekday late-night and weekend newscasts originate at the MMC base in Toronto, local reporters/anchors at all eight markets can give more attention to generating local content.

Vice President, National and Network News Mike Omelus calls it “a more efficient production model. We are getting more feet on the street in local markets and deepening our ties to the community so it’s strengthening local news from that perspective and it’s repositioning the entire news organization, changing it from a show centre or a newscast-centric production model to a story centre production model that is story-centred.”



Global MMC

Multi-Market Content



By changing the way these newscasts are put together, Global has created opportunities for both broadcast and online. For example, instead of waiting for traditional newscast times to begin producing content, the MMC news programming is prepared as soon as stories are ready. Anchors Crystal Goomansingh and Antony Robart are in the studio at multiple times throughout their weeknight shifts instead of just once at airtime. When material is ready, items of local, national and international content are recorded, one at a time, and then packaged in an edit suite.

Unlike the conventional model where packaged elements are extracted from newscasts for posting online after a newscast has aired, the MMC model allows for publication on other platforms hours before traditional newscast times.

“What the idea behind Multi-Market Content intended,” said Senior Vice President, News and Station Operations Troy Reeb, “was a response to the need to deliver content around the clock and on multiple platforms. By having the show put together in the edit suites or on the desktops rather than running them through a control room, we get the stories fully packaged and explained much better. We can push them out to the online audience ahead of when we put them on TV.”

While content is recorded piecemeal throughout the evening, it is played out live during newscasts.

☞ Mike Omelus, Vice President,
National and Network News





⌘ Anchors Crystal Goomansingh and Antony Robart in the studio between recording segments

This allows for late-breaking stories to be added to the playout server as late as 10-seconds before playout or, alternatively, for anchors to go live if required. A primary example of that was last Friday night's coverage of the school shooting at La Loche in northern Saskatchewan. Global provided 18 minutes of content on the shootings for its Regina and Saskatoon markets, updating the story throughout both newscasts.

MMC puts the lie to traditional notions of what pre-recorded content is. With items recorded individually, much like an à la carte menu, Global News has the flexibility to handle and manipulate content throughout the newscast, similar to conventional broadcasts. The model, says Omelus, ensures that local newscasts can provide viewers with the latest information, e.g. severe weather or late sports scores.

As with a conventional newscast, all items are placed in a rundown. In MMC-produced shows, rundowns also generate playlists. At newscast time, the playlist is automatically triggered to start by Master Control (using a DTMF tone). The playlist server then plays news items one at a time. A producer still oversees the newscast as it plays out live and can adapt items as needed. Commercial breaks are triggered the same way.

Troy Reeb, Senior Vice President, ⇄
News and Station Operations



With packaged elements anchored and produced at one location, eliminated is enormous duplication. For example, national or international stories of interest to all markets are written and produced just once instead of producers and anchors in multiple markets writing, producing and reading the same stories. And still, the various late night and weekend packages—while produced and anchored in Toronto—are local. The news people at each location gather local content, produce and package it, and confer with MMC producers to determine the content for their respective market newscasts.

Alexandra Henderson, Executive Producer, Multi-Market Content, said “you record it once and you put it in two markets or, if it’s relevant, you can put it in five markets. That lets us move things around and develop the content so that it works for those specific markets.”

The touted efficiencies include resources at local markets being reallocated to more local newsgathering for online and broadcast. Anchors are freed to report from local events that might not otherwise have been covered. Cited was a Global Okanagan anchor/reporter who provided updates from a major forest fire instead of being tethered to the anchor desk. Also noted was the extended coverage from the Paris terrorist attacks, coverage that would not have been possible under the old model.

Global’s Multi-Market Content has two anchors, two meteorologists, two sportscasters and six producers who work each MMC shift. Five operations staff oversee the technical side.

✧ Alexandra Henderson, Executive Producer, Multi-Market Content



Live MMC coverage to five markets simultaneously during the November 13 Paris terror attacks ✧





Geoff Franklin, Adrian Dobre, Ralph Carstens, Ryan Steeves, Anthony Bruno, Gerry Belec, Jeff Collier, Alexandra Henderson, Terry Elkady and Kris Reyes

Omelus, commenting on the suggestion that it's like a digital first strategy, agreed. "It repositions us as a news organization to ensure that we are filing as much content online as we can get and as quickly as we can. Absolutely it's a change."

How about Global's confidence in the technology? "We have back-up servers, we have an uninterrupted power supply but that doesn't guarantee there won't be a crash," said Omelus. "Since we launched newscasts to the eight markets we've produced 1,500 and haven't lost one."

There has been criticism from viewers and staffers alike albeit for different reasons. There was some pushback and resistance from staff, said Reeb, "as you might expect any time you disrupt somebody's world".

People, he said, are sensitive to that and the way they perceive their careers. And those perceptions are heightened by any viewer complaints so that if one viewer complains it feels as though 100 had. Reeb knew from the start that the challenge wasn't going to be technological so much as it was going to be cultural. For decades, he said, people who have worked in local television news have defined themselves by doing television shows that they produced in a linear way as soon as the light went on at six o'clock and it stopped at 6:59 when it was over. "It's been a substantial shift in mindsets."

As for the viewers, Omelus says he wants to let the product speak for itself. Viewers are seeing more local news. “I think you have to get used to the product, get used to the new personalities. Everyone involved cares passionately about the markets being served. They don’t want to mess up. They want to understand what matters to the community. The producers tasked with pulling each of the shows together spend a lot of time trying to understand what matters to these markets. Because of it, we think we are reflecting the communities quite well.”

Because the segments/stories are produced one by one, a viewer criticism is that the newscasts look too polished. Both Reeb and Omelus smile and say that’s primarily due to being able to catch mistakes before they go to air. By going out on a server base Global has the quality control to say “something doesn’t quite sound right. Can you do that again?”

From a regulatory perspective, Senior VP Reeb says the CRTC has largely been hands-off provided obligations are being met. “In every market where we are using this technology we’re vastly exceeding conditions of licence in terms of the amount of local content we have to put on so this isn’t being done to be able to take it down to a bare minimum.”

Omelus said Global News is innovating and positioning itself for long-term success in the industry. While there are the odd hiccoughs, he said, it’s a learning process.

“The content we produce is what really matters to viewers.”

Howard Christensen can be reached by e-mail at howard@broadcastdialogue.com or (705) 484-0752.