

# Network

Newsletter, December 18, 2014

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***Remember that this is everyone's  
newsletter. If you've got something to  
share, please let us know for our next  
edition.***

## **ABOUT THE NETWORK NEWSLETTER:**

By: Fred Campbell

It's been 25 years since the first edition of Network - a newsletter for community television volunteers.

It's purpose was "to explore the advantages of communication between communities".

Now, 25 years later, the focus of volunteers has evolved to also include community radio, internet-based social media and webcasting.

According to the first newsletter - "No one is trying to tell any group how to do community television".

"Indeed, one of the exciting aspects of visiting different groups is discovering how their television programming is as individual as the communities themselves."

Mutual respect and appreciation of differences has to be essential for networking, even more so in 2014 when many of the support mechanisms for rural communities have been eliminated.

As the first Network stated: "The content of this newsletter depends on the people who write in. Send us your classifieds (free); news about what you are doing or projects you have planned; comments or opinions about what is going on in community television; do-it-yourself hints; suggestions for programming; black/white photographs, and advice or requests for help."

Like the current Network itself, this newsletter is not funded. It depends on volunteers. Thanks very much to Mallery for making this newsletter happen and let's all take a few minutes to give her a hand on the next edition - so we don't have to wait another 25 years.

**“Community radio is 90% community, 10% radio”  
– Zane Ibrahim**

## About Network 11,12,13 and 14

By: Fred Campbell

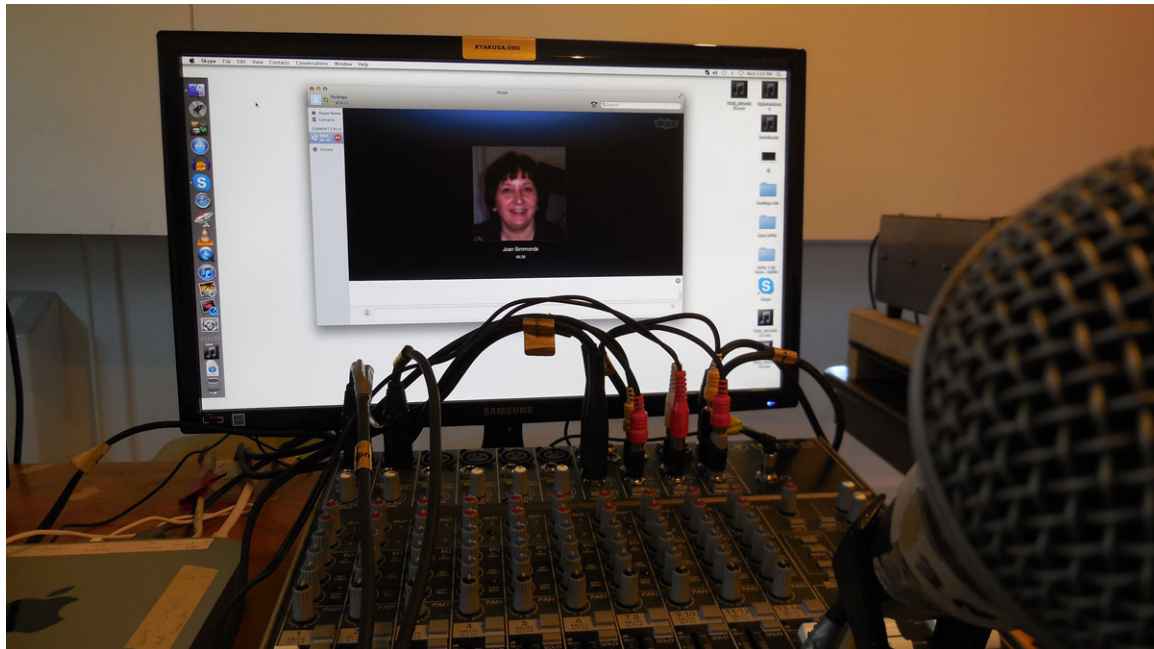
More than 150 homes and offices (1,500 hits) were listening in to Network 14 - the fourth annual "unconference" of NL community media volunteers.

Network 14 was hosted by the Conche French Shore Historical Society and MUN Grenfell Campus in October, 2014.

The Network can be described as an unfunded, loose organization of NL community media volunteers. The current focus is on community radio - both permanent stations and special events - but internet social media and webcasting are also significant.



The grand finale of Network 14 in October was a traditional kitchen party live on Conche Community Radio.



**Network 14 used Skype to chat with virtual participants.**

**The purpose is to enhance communication between rural communities (and their expatriates). A welcome evolution of the Network would be to reach out to other forms of community media - including television, internet radio, websites and print newsletters.**

**Network 11 was initiated by the now dormant Rural Communication for Sustainability Initiative - facilitated by the NL Rural Secretariat, MUN Grenfell Campus, and Ryakuga. The event was hosted by the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital (Julia Ann Walsh Heritage Center), the Voice of Bonne Bay (VOBB), and the Bonne Bay Marine Station.**

**MUN Grenfell Campus supported travel costs and participants were housed by the Rural Secretariat which also facilitated two deliberative dialogue sessions on networking and communications. The Red Ochre Zone Board also supported the event.**

**Participants agreed to support the initiation of an informal network of community groups interested in communication - specifically (but not exclusively) community radio enhanced by internet tools - that is - mixed media.**

**There was no funding for participants to come to Network 12 on Bell Island - although Mallery McGrath came to the event. Skype-ins formed much of the Network 12 programming with participants from as far away as Argentina : ) A lot of the discussion focused on Radio Bell Island's aim to create a permanent radio station - which it did in 2013.**

**Network 13 was supported by the Rural Secretariat (with travel assistance from Grenfell) and hosted by BOIR (Bay of Islands Radio) at the CU Expo conference in Corner Brook.**

**Anita Best from VOBB, Kelly Russell from Radio Bell Island, and Ivan Emke from BOIR played pivotal roles in the event with technical assistance provided by Nicole Neary of Radio Bell Island. Clem and Lillian Dwyer and Bernadette Dwyer from Fogo Island also participated along with Rural Secretariat and BOIR staff. Mallery McGrath from Cape Shore Radio and Jacinta McGrath from Southern Shore Sounds also participated by teleconference and skype-in.**

**The participatory networking component of Network 14 was addressed in a daily call in/skype in (hosted by Mallery McGrath, Ivan Emke and Fred Campbell) focusing on community media issues and including chat panels of NL volunteers and practitioners from across Canada.**

**The challenge now facing the Network would see to be inclusivity: how to evolve to include all volunteer community media initiatives in the province.**

## VOICE OF BONNE BAY:

<http://www.vobb.org/>



Situated amongst the serene beauty of Gros Mourne National Park, is the lively community radio station, Voice of Bonne Bay (VOBB). The studio broadcasts live on 95.9 and 98.1 FM locally and online at <http://www.vobb.org/>

Following the success of special community media events in 2008 Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital Heritage Cooperation formed a committee devoted to establishing a permanent community radio station. In 2009 the Canadian Radio and Television approved an application for a permanent radio station in the Julia Anne Walsh Heritage Center (the former Cottage Hospital).



“It’s there because we own the building, it’s a community building and it’s located in the centre of town. We also knew what the transmission from the antenna on the roof would be like,” says Gary Wilton of VOBB.

Funding for this station initially came from ACOA and IBRD and the station now relies upon donations, sales, hosting concerts, etc.

Operated by volunteers, the station provides information on anything and everything, Wilton discusses. Wilton says that volunteer

hosts create and produce their own shows and are free to present whatever they want within CRTC regulations.

Anita Best, another volunteer with VOBB, adds that 5 shows are currently created and hosted by youth in the community.



Volunteer host Anita Best interviews the town clerk live on VOBB

## A special message from VOBB:

\*The volunteers at VOBB wish all their listeners in Bonne Bay and elsewhere a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.\*

\*You are invited to tune in to 95.9 or 98.1 FM between 8 and 11 PM on Sunday, December 21, to help us celebrate the winter solstice and the start of the festive season. You can also drop by the Julia Ann Walsh Community Centre (the old cottage hospital) in person to send greetings to your friends and families over the airwaves. \*

\*There will be live music, singing, festive readings and interviews with folks from other cultures about their mid-winter customs. At 9 PM we will switch over to Woody Point for an hour, where our VOBB south side volunteers will be holding an open house at the Merchant Warehouse. Feel free to join us at either location.\*

\*If you have friends and families who live outside the broadcast area, you can encourage them to listen in on their computers at [www.vobb.org](http://www.vobb.org) <<http://www.vobb.org>> or on their mobile devices by using the TuneIn Radio app.\*

\*Call us during the broadcast at [709 458 3072](tel:7094583072) and we'll put you on the air!\*

***Got a story to share about your experience with community media? Let us know for our next edition!***

## **RADIO BELL ISLAND:**

<http://www.radiobellisland.com/>

A special community radio event in March of 2011, offered by the Rural Secretariat, sparked great interest in community media on Bell Island. As a strong sense of community pride and connectedness developed, a group of volunteers on Bell Island came together and formed an incorporated committee, devoted to establishing a permanent radio station.

A second successful community radio event took place in March of 2012. Just months later, in July of 2012, Radio Bell Island was approved by Industry Canada and licensed by the Canadian Radio - Television and Telecommunications Commission. This was made possible through a fundraising campaign and a grant from Rural Development.

Radio Bell Island began broadcasting on January 28, 2013 and broadcasts live from St. Michael's Regional High School on 93.9 FM and online at <http://www.radiobellisland.com/>

St. Paddy's Day "Spotlight" Show with "Even Keel"  
LIVE On Radio Bell Island (Thursday, March 14, 2013)



***We want to know what's happening with community media in YOUR COMMUNITY! Let us know for our next edition.***



## Community radio captures special events in your community:



Sand sculpture is a popular event at the annual *North West River Beach Festival* - live on community radio from North West River to Happy Valley-Goose Bay.



Gale Tapper played her harp from the slipway for a global audience during a week of *Feile Tilting* community/internet radio in September.

## **YOUTH AND COMMUNITY MEDIA:**

**By: Mallery McGrath**

**It is vitally important to involve the youth of a community in participatory community media. Benefits include, but are not limited to:**

- **Exposing youth to volunteer opportunities in their community**
- **Building communication skills**
- **Building self confidence**
- **Intergenerational learning as community members of all ages typically participate in community broadcasts**
- **Targeting varying audience groups**
- **Exposing youth to the culture and history relevant to their community.**



**Branch youth join in on Network 14 discussions**



**Students operated all equipment during Southern Shore Sounds community radio in Ferryland in May of 2014.**

*“In the increasingly corporate world of radio, low-power FM isn't about how far your signal reaches but how near.” – Laurie Kelliher*

# Gathering 'Round the Global Community Radio: Stories and Relationships

By: Ivan Emke

Community Radio (CR) can be many things, to many people. And when we think about the multitude of ways it is used around our world, it becomes even more complicated. But one way to think about CR is to see it as a bundle of stories that create relationships between programs and listeners. This can happen here in NL, or in Uruguay, or in the Punjab. Stories creating relationships. The technology may be the same as commercial or state-sponsored radio, but the daily practices and motivations and operating philosophies are different – and so the relationships that are cultivated are different as well. Let's take five examples of what this looks like, in five parts of the world.

Let's start relatively close to home, in northern Quebec. At the moment, the Cree across this region are mourning the loss of a community radio hero, Roderick Rabbitskin. He had been making a program called *Eyou Dipajimoon* ("Stories of the People"), in Cree, for the people of the James Bay region since 1993. As a colleague remembered Rabbitskin's influence, saying "one time an Elder came up to us and says, pointing to his wife, 'At five minutes to 12 she grabs a chair and sits by the radio, just waiting for you to come on air, and she doesn't move 'til you're done,' he said." Rabbitskin not only told the stories of the James Bay Cree, but also celebrated the Cree language and helped it to thrive.

Indeed, the work of community radio in preserving minority languages is very important. For example, Cultural Survival has a network of some 80 radio stations in Guatemala, El Salvador and Belize that are geared toward revitalizing languages. But the importance of radio programming in local languages is crucial, when it comes to issues such as public health campaigns. While many of the countries most hard-hit by Ebola at the moment have "official" languages that are English, French or Portuguese, a large percentage of the population in those countries may not understand any of those languages. Take Liberia, for example. Only about 20% of the population understands English. And so they are listening to government and UN-sponsored radio programs about protecting themselves from Ebola in a language that they cannot understand. As a result, many community radio stations are trying to fill the gap. Radio Gbehzohn, for example, is the only place where local Bassa speakers can learn about the importance of public health measures to curb Ebola. The radio station practices what it preaches, requiring all visitors to the station to wash their hands with chlorinated water before being allowed in to the studios. Indeed, a significant weapon in fighting

**Ebola has been the work of small stations in spreading health information in local languages.**



A pleasant 26-hour flight from Liberia will get you to the state of Punjab, in northwestern India. There, in the city of Chandigarh, a local association is setting up a radio community station that is devoted to those who are visually-impaired. It will not only include information about health and hygiene and new mobile apps, but also employment advice, new aids and equipment on the market, eye camps, classes and courses, and the latest research and innovation related to visual health. Much of this advice, and especially the material on preventive eye health, will be useful to those without a visual impairment. And one of the major contributions of such a station is the creation of a well-connected community of listeners – of people with visual impairments – who will be bound together by the stories of their common challenges and victories.



From Chandigarh, if you get in a car and drive, you can make it to Bangladesh in about 29 hours – if there isn't any significant traffic. But there is always traffic there...! But once in Bangladesh, you could listen to the two community radio stations there that have received a Girl Power Award for 2014. Community Radio Padma and Community Radio Nalta have both won these awards for their programming that has portrayed the courageous work of many young women who have been champions for their causes. The programs have featured stories of women who have struggled against poverty, a lack of formal education, sub-standard health services and other effects of gender inequality. Both stations were cited for their “outstanding contribution in championing girls’ and young womens’ empowerment issues.” At the same time, many of the commercial media in our so-called developed world produce programs and disseminate advertising that effectively *disempowers* girls and young women.

Our last stop is a brisk 1,700-kilometre walk north and west, into the Himalayas – which will apparently take about 352 hours (according to the ever-helpful internet). There, on the community radio station Venval Vani, we could listen to the program *Nau Par Vikaas Ka* (“In the Name of Development”). It features information and research on the effects of climate change on that region, and how it connects with development activities which have resulted in serious local repercussions such as flash floods and landslides. Here is a short segment of a script:

“You know, humans do not understand that unless I am there to hold on to the soil, you will not be there either,” the tree tells the mountain.

“Yes, but villagers demand a road, the politician pushed for it and they cut parts of me and cut you and your folks too, and then there is a landslide,” replies the mountain.

Worldwide, there are over 44,000 radio stations. Many of them are small community stations. The UN estimates that 75% of the households in the developing world have access to radio, making it the most widespread and effective media in those regions. In terms of its potential impact on everyday quality of life, the internet pales in comparison to the value of small-scale radio. Here in Newfoundland and Labrador, we are a very small part of that wide movement that is known as Community Radio. Stories creating relationships. We are in good company indeed.

-Ivan Emke ([iemke@grenfell.mun.ca](mailto:iemke@grenfell.mun.ca))

***Stay tuned for our next edition in the Spring of 2015!***

***Have an idea for our next edition?  
Let us know!***