

NETWORK

Community television in Newfoundland - Labrador



Three Coves Community Television went live for the first time in Flower's Cove on Hallowe'en. Alan Humber plays for a masked trick-or-treater while Brian White adjusts the set. There will be more about Northern Peninsula community television in the next newsletter.



Jerry Oliver shows the new studio under construction at La Grand'Terre.

Pour garder notre langue

L'Héritage de l'Ile
Rouge, Inc.
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La Grand'Terre
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Bonjour à toutes et à tous:

Nous vous écrivons aujourd'hui d'une petite communauté francophone qui s'appelle "La Grand'Terre". Nous sommes situés à l'estremité de la côte ouest de Terre-Neuve sur la péninsule de Port au Port.

La population est de 750 personnes. La plupart de ce montant est francophone. A cause que nous sommes d'une langue minoritaire, il faut toujours travailler pour garder notre langue Française ainsi que notre culture. C'est donc la plus grande raison que nous avons créés-TV - Télévision Communautaire de La Grand'Terre qui à eu son ouverture officielle le 31 mars dernier. Nous diffusons des programmes concernant la culture, l'éducation, des documentaires, entrevués, programmes pour enfants, programmes d'information,

calendriers d'activités, etc. Tous le travail, métrage, montage, diffusion, etc., est fait par notre équipe de huit bénévoles.

On est maintenant à la recherche de financement pour pouvoir embaucher au moins une personne pour co-ordonner et organiser la programmation. Jusqu' à date nous allons sur les ondes une fois par semaine pour durée de 2 à 3 heures.

Si jamais que vous êtes dans les environs ou que vous êtes intéresser de nous visiter, vous avez qu'a nous appeller ou nous écrire à l'adresse suivante. Vous avez qu'à nous laisser savoir aussi si vous êtes intéresser de faire une échange de vidéo pour mieux nous connaître.

En espérant de vous lire prochainement.

A bientôt
Julie Oliver, Co-ordonnatrice



Port Blandford saw live community television for the first time in March during a public forum called 'Planning for the 21st Century'. Taking part in a phone-in panel discussion are Mayor Reg Penney (left), Bernie Weinheber, Roger Carter and Laban Davis.



Dr. Larry Moss is a hardworking volunteer on Springdale Community Television.

Springdale looks back

SPRINGDALE HERITAGE
by Dr. Larry Moss
Springdale Community
Television

Like many other communities on the north-east coast Springdale does not have the long history of many Avalon Peninsula communities. The "French Shore" discouraged very early settlement and it was not until the development of the logging and mining industries in the late 1800's that it was settled at all.

Its position on a deep indraft had made it an unattractive location for the fishery.

What does this short lesson in history have to do with community television? The facts make possible a permanent recording of personal and verbal accounts of the growth and development of a town and its people. This is what Springdale Community Television is attempting to do through a series called "Springdale Heritage".

The history of Springdale is within the living memory of some of its senior citizens and the remainder may, in some cases, be recalled from stories told them by their parents. This living history, given the right circumstances, can be lively, informative, entertaining, educational, humorous and, in short, good TV and this has been our experience with "Springdale Heritage".

Most senior citizen (in fact most citizens of any age) are experienced only on one side of television - the viewing side - and can be easily intimidated by the lights, microphones, cameras, etc. of the production site. That being the case their recollections are likely to be stilted responses to prepared questions. That may make for good factual research but it does not make for good entertainment.

Our series was done by Daryl Kendall. Daryl is a pharmacist who is quite accustomed to talking to people. He took the time to meet with our seniors several days before the taping "for a chat". He did not give them a series of questions but rather, after the chat, said "How about if we talk about this matter or that topic". This gave the guests time to think about the topics and not about the questions. Thus their responses during the taping

were more natural. During the taping we played down the technical aspect by having the studio ready to go on their arrival and by limiting technical personnel to the bare minimum. We gave them no behavioural instructions such as "look at the camera" choosing to have a natural as opposed to a slick technical performance.

Each guest was chosen for a reason or reasons. Frank Boyles was our first guest because his family were aboriginal Springdalers and because he is such a natural storyteller. Rita Locke was chosen because she had done considerable research on the town's history and she had detailed knowledge of the presence of Indians in the area. In other words we tried not to repeat ourselves by having different people recall the same things.

We are not finished by any means. We still want to cover the resettlement era, the development of the mining industry, the growth of municipal government (Springdale was one of the first incorporated areas outside St. John's), the early lumbering era, and the development of health and education services, just to name a few. After the series is completed we plan to back up the tapes and donate them to the public library.

Extension lends a hand

MUN EXTENSION AND COMMUNITY TELEVISION by Roger Carter

MUN Extension's involvement in media and community development began in the 1960s when it worked on a project on Fogo Island with the National Film Board. The Fogo Island project made extensive use of film as an information tool and to stimulate public discussion. The success of the Fogo Island project led the University to continue and increase its involvement in media-related community development.

Since the 1960s the Extension Service has been making films and (with the introduction of video technology) videos, to assist in its community development work. Films and videotapes have been made on a wide variety of subjects, most of them related to community development in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

These films and videos have been used in workshops, forums, kitchen meetings and conferences to provide information and to stimulate discussion. For several years the Extension Service produced a regular television program (known as Decks Awash) which was shown on province-wide television.

In more recent years the Extension Service has been involved in community television in a major way. In the

early 1980s it began experimenting with a portable television station which could be used as a community development tool. From films and public meetings on Fogo Island in the 1960s the approach has developed into videos and meetings via community television. The advantage of community television is that it can deliver information and messages to whole communities at once. By using a telephone open-line system in conjunction with television, whole communities can participate in what are in effect public meetings via television.

With the proliferation of cable television in Newfoundland and Labrador, and the possibility for most communities to have their own active community channels, the Extension Service has decided to help promote the development of community television throughout the province. It assists in the organization of community television groups, and helps train people to do their own television production. The Extension Service also provides video copies of its own film and video collection, and promotes the exchange of information about community television and video throughout the province.

The Extension Service's involvement in this community television newsletter is part of this effort.

Responsibility for preparation of this newsletter is being shared across the province. For the next newsletter, send your stuff to Community Television Network, c/o Lena Collins, MUN Extension, St. John's, A1C 5S7.



Journalism graduate Anna Gardner operates the video switcher in the college's television studio control room.

On air for three years

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Stephenville, NF

Hello Fellow Community
Programmers:

This is Don Murphy coming to you from Stephenville, Newfoundland. For our first Newsletter, I would like to briefly let you know who and where we are, and what we are doing. We are the Journalism class of the Western Community College in Stephenville. With the co-operation of N1 Cable TV, we produce five hours of local programming per week.

This package usually contains some local history, current events and happenings, news, weather and sports, local entertainment and live interviews with community groups and visiting politicians. All programs are produced and aired by the students.

We have been on the air since January 1987 and have built up a regular viewing audience.

I will have more information about our programming and operation in future newsletters.

Here are a few tips to ponder as taken from "Video News and Used": What action would you take if your camera got accidentally dropped into a lake? After retrieving the camera and swearing a bit, remove the side panels and lens and shake as much water out as you can. Then, blow dry it with a hair dryer as quickly as possible. Do not rub it with a cloth, as this could cause damaging static electricity. Do not fire it up. Take it to a qualified service shop for inspection. Is it safe to point a CCD camera directly into high noon sun? No, it is not! This could burn the sensor or literally warp it, depending on the period of direct exposure. The effect is similar to using a magnifying glass to start a camp fire.

Looking forward to hearing from the rest of you.



Steve Bonnell operates a mini-video switcher during a Clarendville community television special.

This is your newsletter

This is the first edition of a newsletter for people interested in community television.

According to CRTC stats, there are about 30 communities in the province making their own television programs.

This newsletter is called **Network** not to imitate commercial television but rather to explore the advantages of communication between communities.

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.

The first few editions of the newsletter will be assembled at MUN Extension but it belongs to us all. The people at Western Community College say they'll take over next year.

So please write in (even a postcard) and let us all know what's going on in your community.

OK Society airs on CBC

by Pat Nagle
former Executive Director

The Okalakatiget Society is the native communications organization serving the Inuit and Kablunaangajuit (native settlers) of the northern Labrador. The Society was founded in 1982, following a communications needs study conducted in 1981 by the Labrador Inuit Association. The Society is a separately incorporated, non-profit, charitable organization which is active in radio, television, print, and trail radio communications services. The Society is fortunate to receive annual operating funding from the federal Department of Secretary of State under two programs designed to support native communications organizations in the north.

The Society's television operation began in the fall of 1985. Three staff members from our radio operation began training in television production at that time, with the goal of producing a half-hour monthly television program in the Inuit language Inuktitut. After a few months of training, production of "Labradorimiut" began early in 1986. By June of 1986, the Society was producing a regular monthly program. Six months later, production expanded to include an English language version of "Labradorimiut" in addition to the Inuktitut version. In 1987, the Secretary of State froze the funding levels to all native communications societies and as a result, our television production has stayed at the level of two

half-hours every month.

"Labradorimiut" airs on CBC North throughout northern Labrador, the Eastern Arctic and northern Quebec. It is shown on access time provided by the CBC to the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, the native communications organization for the Eastern Arctic.

Currently, "Labradorimiut" is produced at the Society by a full time staff of four at the Society's production centre in Nain. We have converted a part of the old school in the community into a small, makeshift television studio and editing facilities. It isn't pretty, but it does the job! The technical setup is quite simple. We use Sony 3/4" industrial video equipment, without any of the fancy effects. Most of our programs are produced "film style" using a single camera and lots of editing. The lack of fancy production equipment forces us to really concentrate on the content of the programs—something that has proven to be a positive thing in the long run.

"Labradorimiut" usually consists of two or three 7 to 12 minute items of current affairs or cultural interest to residents of the north coast of Labrador. We've covered everything from the Labrador Winter Games, to the Pentecostal Church in Postville, to traditional Inuit 50th birthday celebrations, to problems with the school system, to the effectiveness of the Labrador Inuit Association.

From time to time, our television team also do half-hour or hour-long documentary programs on a variety of issues, such as the Federal Environmental Assessment Review hearings on low-level flying, the justice system, the relocation of Hebron, and others.

The Society is having some success meeting its goals of helping to preserve the language and culture of Labrador Inuit. Our most recent audience survey showed that as many as 90% of viewers watch "Labradorimiut". The survey showed that many people are encouraged to learn or improve their Inuktitut as a result of our television and radio programming.

Distribution of our programming remains our major problem at the present time.

We have to rely on access time on CBC North, which means our programs must complete with CBC programs for a spot on the schedule. At the present time, there is no television other than CBC available in communities on the north coast, which means it can be pretty tough to find a spot for our programs. We're working with a group called Television Northern Canada on the development of a second satellite-fed network all across the north. TVNC will provide northern and native programming from the Yukon, N.W.T., northern Quebec, and Labrador to viewers across the north. This should go a long way to helping us resolve the problems of finding a spot in the crowded CBC schedule.

For more information on the Society or "Labradorimiut", please contact Fran Williams, Program Director or Edward Allen, Senior Producer at the Okalakatiget Society at 922-2955.



Last August the Extension Service and the Newfoundland-Belize Linkage Committee took part in the second Garifuna Cultural Retrieval Project in Hopkins Village, Belize. The project involved teaching traditional crafts to younger people and also utilizing video to assist in the presentation.



The community of Ramea hopes eventually to add a studio on to their present building.

Community owns cable TV

by Samuel Fiander, President
Ramea Broadcasting

First of all, let me fill you in on the history of Ramea Broadcasting Company since the formation and operation of such a company demonstrates what a community can do when everyone pulls together. For three to four years prior to 1984 a desire was expressed to have someone attempt to set up cable TV for our citizens. Because of the limited number of potential subscribers our efforts became fruitless so in 1984 the proposal was made and accepted at a public meeting to set up a Community Cable Company.

After four or five months of hard work on the part of an elected committee, Ramea Broadcasting Company was born.

Financial backing then became a problem. Since we had no property or money, banks were very apprehensive about lending us the necessary funds to purchase equipment. To raise the funds, then, each potential subscriber was required to deposit \$140 and was thereby granted one vote at any meeting of the company. The company would be and is run and operated by an annually elected group of volunteers with all profits, if any, that may be realized going into the cable plant or spent on other worthwhile community projects.

We started broadcasting in October 1985 with five channels and have since expanded to ten regular channels plus a community channel.

This community channel has been expanded to include 24 hour weather forecast, regular 24 hour, weekly reviewed, community announcements (read-out).

Three or four hours on Sunday afternoons has been set aside for airing programs which may be of interest to the general public. This includes local church services, community profiles, fisheries tapes etc.

We do not have facilities in place yet to do our own programming but we are leaning in that direction. We now depend on local people with equipment to provide some of our tapes and we thank them.

We plan to get into community programming in a bigger way when and if funding can be obtained to build a studio onto our presently owned 10' x 12' building. To date our efforts in this area has proven futile but we do not intend to give up.

Editing is often a problem for community groups although some great results have been obtained with two VCRs hooked up together. MUN Extension lets community groups make use of its half-inch editing suite in St. John's. Extension also has a 900 videotape lending library. Tapes are free-for-lending to community groups and \$10 (including postage) if you want to buy. Send for a catalogue.



A bi-weekly local entertainment show is popular on Burgeo's community-owned cable system.

Build your own lighting

Getting tips from others on how to do-it-yourself and save money can be beneficial. Such articles are welcome but responsibility for the advice can only rest with the author.

by Stephen Bonnell
SCAN (Station Clarendville & Neighbours)

For those of you who are interested in constructing instead of purchasing lights for video applications this article may be of some help to you or your group.

But first I would like to mention that this article is comprised of two parts: (a) What is a quartz-iodine lamp? and (b) How to construct your own system which employs this type of lamp.

(a) What is a quartz-iodine lamp?

Today quartz lighting is used in all video or film work for the main reason that it maintains a constant level of light and color temperature. In an ordinary tungsten lamp (house type) the filament evaporates and deposits itself on the glass envelope. As a result the lamp darkens and the amount of light emitted is reduced. Meanwhile the filament also shrinks with age therefore increasing its own resistance which will eventually lower the color temperature of the lamp. In working with video, this cannot be tolerated because color temperature must remain constant in order to achieve good color balance in the picture. This is where the quartz-iodine lamp becomes useful. Inside a quartz lamp there is a small trace of iodine, which vaporises and forms with the tungsten

deposit when the lamp is on. As a result the lamp remains clean throughout its lifespan. There is no shrinking of the filament because the iodine-tungsten mixture unites with the filament, so therefore color temperature would also remain the same.

In order to get the iodine and tungsten deposit to mix the temperature of the lamp must be above 250° celcius. This is ensured by enclosing the filament in a narrow glass tube made of a material called quartz which has a high melting point. Because of this quartz-iodine lamps are much smaller than the typical domestic lamp of the same rating.

(b) How to construct your own quartz-iodine lighting system

Making your own light simply involves mounting a quartz fixture on a lightweight tripod using a nut and bolt or similar method whichever you feel is better.

Quartz fixtures can be obtained at any local hardware store for around \$30. They also come complete with a lamp. Sometimes a lamp and fixture are interchangeable terms; but a lamp is a filament device which fits into a fixture. A fixture can be considered a holder which holds the lamp. Both are different items. You replace but the fixture remains the same.

Quartz fixtures have different ratings; usually 500 watt maximum or a 1000 watt maximum. When replacing lamps make sure the rating of the lamp doesn't exceed the rating of the fixture. Quartz lamps generate a lot of heat; too much heat in the fixture may cause a fire.

Always allow the unit ten minutes to cool down before handling. When installing quartz-iodine lamps use cotton gloves or a cloth to avoid getting fingerprints on the glass. This is so any oil from your fingers will not contact the lamp. If so, the lamp may pop when switched on. However, if you do get fingerprints on the tube, use soapy water or even better mineral spirits to remove them.

The materials that I used for my light unit were purchased at a hardware store. I also used other materials that were found in my basement's junkbox.

First, I got my tripod and positioned it on my workshop floor. Always start with the tripod and work your way up to the fixture. In the second step, I placed an electrical-junction box on the tripod's plate (where the camera mounted). It was secured using two 1/4 inch bolts. The box is the OCTAGONAL type meaning it has eight sides.

As you can see in the diagram, the opening of the box is facing in the opposite direction of the tilt handle of the tripod.

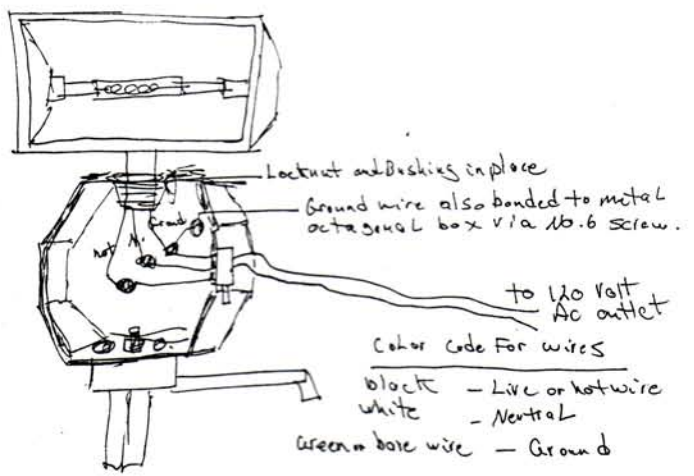
Third, the fixture was fitted into place and secured by a 1/2 inch LOCKNUT and BUSHING. Fourth, the power cord was inserted and all electrical connections were made. Then a plate was screwed to the box in order to seal it. I guess you already have noticed the swivel base on the fixture which is marked in degrees. This is an essential aid in positioning your light for Key or Fill positions. The scale on my swivel reads: 30-0-30-60-90°. Quartz-iodine lamps or similar types are designed to burn in a horizontal position from 0-4°. If the lamp is used on an angle (more than 4°) it will burn out on one end. This is typical for the high wattage tubes which have ratings above 1000 watts.

So there you have your own homemade lighting unit. If you want you may attach barn doors using sheet metal and cabinet hinges.

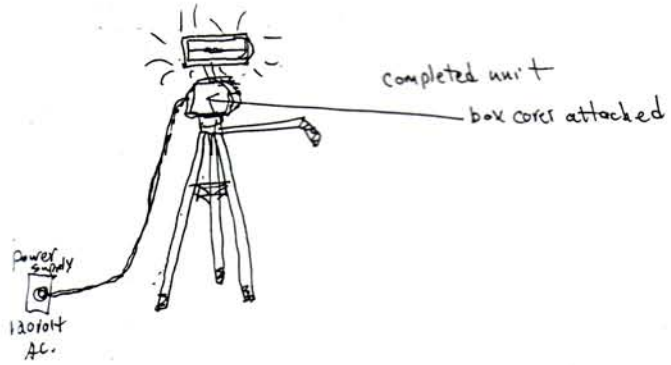
I hope that this article served as a starting point to all video or filmmakers who are interested in beating the cost of production equipment. Remember the secret to this project and many others is IMPROVISATION.

The content of this newsletter depends upon the people who write in. Send us 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. For example, Robert Arklie of Marystown wants to know what's a good, low-priced video switcher.

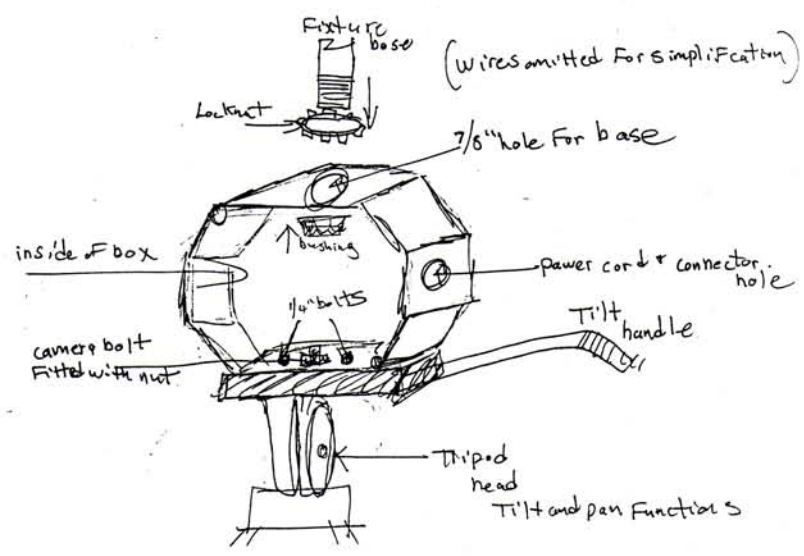
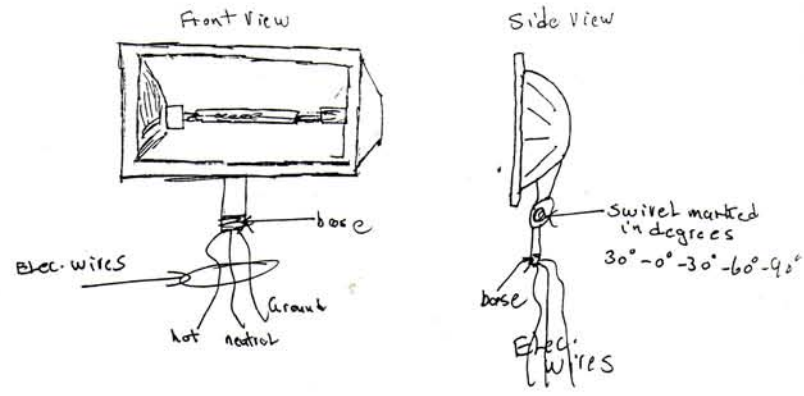
Fixture showing Electrical connections

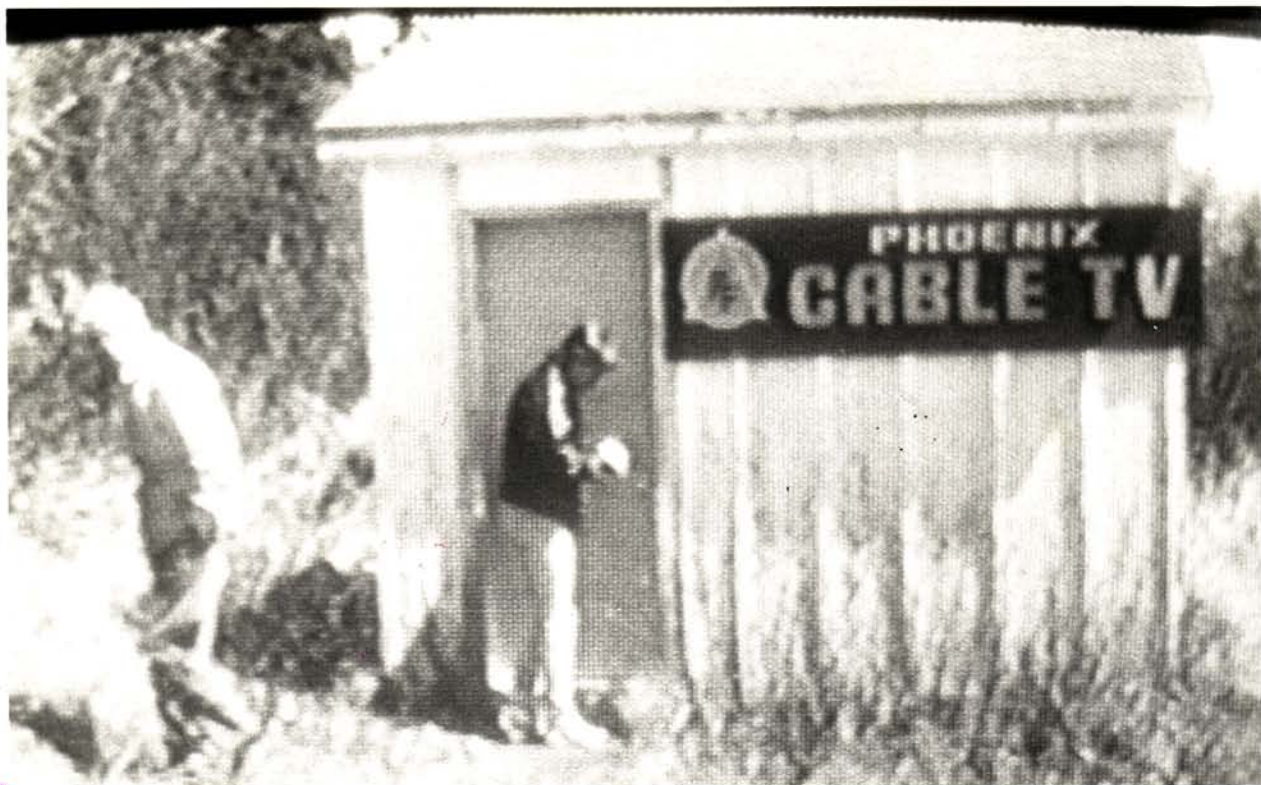


Original
 drawings
 by
 Steve
 Bonnell



Quartz-Iodine Fixture





Pat Hann and Brendan Shelley check out the messages playing on Baie Verte community television.

Work on short documentary

by Brendan Shelley
Secretary-Treasurer

The Baie Verte Community TV Channel has been operating for 2 years now and has a committee of 7 volunteers who are: Ralph Higdon, Chairman; Whit Kean, Co-Chairman; Brendan Shelley, Secretary/Treasurer; Jim Stone, Mike Dormody, Lyn Kean and Roland Shelley, Directors.

Some of the programming we have been doing are Man on the Street Interviews where we went out and interviewed the general public about our community and community TV.

We also went to the Town Hall and interviewed some of the town's officials on how the community channel will be a good access to the town.

The Baie Verte Kinsmen Club had sponsored a TV bingo that went over really well in the community.

Right now we are mainly using the channel for community messages and some videos.

We have also done some filming of local sports, such as hockey games and basketball games.

One other thing we are working on is trying to put together a short documentary on Baie Verte.

That is all for now, so good luck on the newsletter.



Donna Davies began as a volunteer and became program director of the Burgeo Broadcasting System.

Airs local news weekly

by Donna Davies
Program Director

BBS (Burgeo Broadcasting System) is a non-profit community cable TV system which is owned and operated by the people of Burgeo.

The company was founded in 1981 and is run by a board of ten directors, consisting of a President, Vice-President and a Secretary/Treasurer. The sole reason for setting up a community cable company was to provide better and cheaper TV service to the people of Burgeo.

BBC broadcasts four American channels (ABC, NBC, CBS and PBS) as well as CITV, CHCH, CBC and ASN.

We also boast a community channel which, with a full time Programme Director, broadcasts an in-studio weekly news program.

We also produce and air a bi-weekly local entertainment show. The programme director has four volunteers that help with extra filming assignments and other areas of production.

BBS also covers local filming of different events in town and we are supported by all the subscribers who enjoy the programs offered.

We have a print-out channel advertising upcoming local events and happenings, as well as for sale and wanted to buy items; another community print-out channel services local store specials.

Besides the programme director, the company employs a full time Manager/Service

Technician who looks after head-end work, hook-ups, trouble calls plus office work.

The work as programme director is both challenging and interesting, as you get to meet people and be presented with situations one wouldn't normally encounter.

I would encourage anyone to become involved with their community television as it is quite rewarding.

Try video competition

MUN Extension is sponsoring a provincial video competition.

The winners in each category will be chosen October 1.

There is no financial reward but Extension will distribute copies of the winning tapes to community channels across the province.

The purpose of the competition is to publicly recognize the worth of amateur videomakers and encourage people to exchange their tapes.

Hopefully we can also promote the talents of our local entertainers and storytellers.

Categories for the competition are storytelling; music; drama, documentary, art and history.



Community television is alive and well in Placentia. Kevin Collins sings another song at the Legion while Bruce Gilbert and Scott O'Keefe consult on the computer. Tony Evely is floor manager while Bob Earle switches. Tune in next newsletter for more.

COMING UP NEXT!



Loretta Hodder operated a camcorder during a Nov. 23 community television special called The Gander Bay Forum. For more information, stay tuned until the next newsletter.



Jennifer Earle and other participants at the annual Youth for Social Justice Camp put together six evenings of participatory television within their community at the Brother Brennan Environmental Centre. What's next? This is a challenge, my friends.



One of Newfoundland-Labrador community television's big little-moments this year happened on Mother's Day in Clarenville. A young boy, Justin, phoned in to ask why his poster for his mother hadn't been shown on TV like the rest. After a frantic search by volunteers, the day was saved and Justin's poster was shown to the community. SCAN news anchors are Jennifer Murphy and Mark Parsons.

SCAN involves all groups

by Lois Saunders
President, SCAN

The newly formed SCAN Committee hopes to involve all volunteer groups in using the Community Channel. They also hope to create a forum for discussion of local issues and possibly provide educational programs.

Since forming last spring, the group has presented two specials - one for Mother's

Day and another on Father's Day with appropriate themes.

They also held a technical workshop for the public which was well attended.

SCAN is also looking forward to its new building promised by the owner of the station. This will house a studio so that programming can be prepared and presented more efficiently than now.