

Network

Newsletter, July 2015



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A reminder: This is everyone’s newsletter. If you’ve got something to share, please do so in our next edition (Winter 2015).

Placentia – Cape Shore Area Hosts Special Community Radio Event “Making Waves” May 5th – 8th 2015

By: Mallary McGrath

Since the last community radio event on the Cape Shore ended in May of 2012 I have personally been thinking about the next event. After submitting multiple grant proposals to various potential funders this past couple of years I finally found funding in the Eastern Health's Community Mental Health and Addictions Fund. They accepted my proposal in the Fall of 2014, on behalf of the Placentia – Cape Shore Community Connections Committee, to host a 4 -day community radio event, known as “Making Waves,” centered around the developing of supportive communities. On a cold, damp November day I gleefully forwarded Fred the approval for “Making Waves” that would take place May 5th – 8th in Placentia and on the Cape Shore.

About the Placentia – Cape Shore Community Connections Committee (hereinafter known as PCCC).

The PCCC's mission statement is to work with community partners to enhance the health of our communities. We believe in the importance of encouraging and promoting the health of the people in our area. The committee has been active for ten years and has held many special events in both Placentia and on the Cape Shore, all of which have focused upon wellness. For more information on the PCCC please check out our website at <http://www.pccommunityconnections.ca/>

I joined the PCCC as a part of a university Social Work practicum in September of 2014 and soon suggested that a special community radio event would be an excellent venue of promoting and discussing wellness. I applied to Eastern Health's Community Mental Health and Addictions Fund and as you know the application was a success!

The PCCC formed a special subcommittee in January specifically for this event. The subcommittee consisted of Priscilla Corcoran-Mooney, Marguerite Ryan, Laura Kitzke, Jennifer McCarthy, Lee Everts and I. And so, on a blustery Winter's day in January we came together in Placentia to talk about our hopes and goals for this project. We collectively decided that we wanted to talk to community members who contribute to the developing of supportive communities, as well as health professionals, and additionally provide entertainment to listeners. We had long discussions over where the radio event would be centered out of in Placentia. Both Priscilla Corcoran-Mooney and myself were confident that Fatima Academy and the Branch Community Center were suitable locations on the Cape Shore, but given that a community radio event had never occurred in Placentia we were unsure about a location. Knowing the advantages of housing a community radio event in schools, I suggested using Laval High as a location. After meeting with the school's guidance counselor, who thought it would be a great benefit to the students, our committee

agreed that Laval High would be our location. It was decided that we would broadcast live from Laval High on May 5th and 6th, and live from Fatima Academy on May 7th and 8th during school hours, then live from the Branch Community Center from 3pm – 7pm. Consequently this meant a lot of trekking over the Cape Shore for Fred.

Hence the Winter lingered on and scheduling began. The subcommittee tried to meet every two weeks where we would discuss new ideas, contact information for potential interviewees, interview questions, etc. Thankfully, Fred also joined many of our meetings via Skype to discuss the technology set up and his own ideas for the project. As well as meetings, email became our primary mode of communication. We created a Word document schedule that we shared and updated continuously. To help spread the word in the community, committee member Lee Everts gladly created a poster that was posted in community locations (grocery stores, library, school newsletters, post offices, etc.) through out Placentia and the Cape Shore. Fred also made a website to help advertise the event.

Showtime!

On the morning of May 5th, subcommittee members gathered in a classroom at Laval High to witness the first community radio event ever in Placentia go live. It was an exciting moment for students and staff at Laval High, as well as for the community. The principal, Mr. Gord Pike joined us on air to talk about how beneficial a project like this was to the 200+ students of Laval High. With introductions said, students at the microphones and interviewees comfortably seated, so began “Making Waves” on 92.5 FM in Placentia, 95.1 in St. Bride’s and 104.7 in Branch and online.



A Grade 9 student interviews a local yoga instructor

Over the 4 day broadcast we covered a wide range of health and community focused topics including yoga, tai chi, Eastern Health's "Bridging the gAPP," the "Improving Health My Way" program, the Food Security Network, the local food bank, chronic disease management, conversations with Mental Health Social Workers, etc. The Provincial Minister of Health Steve Kent also called in to the broadcast as well as MHA Felix Collins, and our local Member of Parliament Scott Andrews joined in studio at Fatima Academy. We also had a variety on performers on air ranging from high school students to seniors who told stories, sang songs, told jokes, etc.



Laval High students conducted interviews and performed on air.



Initially unfamiliar with community radio, the principal of Laval quickly gained an interest as he saw students take the reins. From my perspective it was once again amazing to see the transformation that takes place when events such as these take place in high schools. On the first morning students shuffled in as they had been scheduled to do so and were timid about being "on air." Through out the

day we saw students become more relaxed, requesting to be in studio again and by the second (final) day at Laval High they were gladly giving up their lunch break to stay and chat with interviewees. One Level 3 student is now thinking about volunteering at a college radio station.

With Fatima Academy having already hosted multiple community radio events we expected much energy and excitement from the school and community. While there was excitement in the community and student engagement, there was a noticeable difference in student participation. This is consequently a result of declining enrolment (approximately 70 students from grades K – 12), however the students who did participate were excited, interested and engaged.



Kids from Grades Kindergarten, One, Two and Three say their piece during the broadcast at Fatima Academy.

Broadcasting live from Branch on Thursday and Friday evening proved interesting as Branch community leaders and youth were on the air. The broadcast, as Fred says, became “Branch-ified.” Highlights of Branch’s programming included live entertainment, an informal chat with the mayor, a Skype in call from Delf Hohmann of the Cape St. Mary’s Performance Series (who was in Germany at the time of the interview!) and discussions with youth about their community. Many youth were eager to say that their favorite thing about living in Branch is “freedom.” Priscilla Corcoran-Mooney and I also discussed on air in Branch the purpose of the event and the PCCC.



The Mayor of Branch, along with some youth from the community, listen tentatively to John Seymour perform live on air.

Lessons Learned

Planning and executing another community radio event has evidently been a valuable learning experience. Here are some things that I learned that may be helpful to you when you are planning your own community's radio event:

- In hindsight, I would have tried to establish organizing committees in both St. Bride's and Branch. With most of the PCCC subcommittee from Placentia, having input from more community members in the organizing process may have helped make each broadcast unique to all communities. This would have been particularly helpful in St. Bride's given the lack of student support available; with an organizing subcommittee we could have possibly had more community members present in studio that could have sparked more community interest and studio energy.
- When there are 17 kids in an open community center space with radio equipment do not turn your back. Do not turn your back.
- If you are immensely passionate about these events and hate it when they end, do not be there when Fred turns off the transmitter. With every flick to "off" and every unplugged cord I winced. Additionally be sure to turn down the volume on your own radio before the broadcast goes off and you are left with piercingly silent static.



Overall, as coordinator of the event, I am pleased with the most recent community radio event on the Cape Shore and Placentia. When you hear such comments in the community as “You should turn off the broadcast at night because I can’t get to bed – I want to stay up and listen all night!” or “I never knew those services and programs existed” or “I missed tuning in this morning” you know that the event has been successful. It is gratifying to know that this event has also provided students with an interest in community media and was also a source of confidence building at Laval. The PCCC was also very pleased with the amount of health related information we were able to broadcast over the 4 days and the committee looks forward to hosting another community radio event in the future.

Check out this link to read an article on “Making Waves” in The Telegram <http://www.thetelegram.com/News/Local/2015-05-12/article-4144670/Radio-project-transmits-good-vibes/1>

“With radio, the listener absorbs everything.” – Bob Edwards

Saturday morning down at 95.1 FM

By: Ivan Emke

We get up early on Saturday morning to take the bus to the Psychiatric hospital. Not all stories that begin with that sentence will end as happily as this one, trust me. Vilarde Psychiatric Hospital (one of only two such institutions in Uruguay) is an imposing structure from the outside. (I realize that melodramatic writers always refer to such places as being “imposing,” but in this case it is true.) A huge fence with overgrown vegetation surrounds the grounds. Some of the buildings appear to be uninhabitable, but the central entrance is large and grand (albeit somewhat worn with time). Once ushered through the security checkpoint, helped by our host Maria, we enter a series of outdoor courtyards. One part of the structure was a church at one time. Maybe it still is. People are sitting here and there, enjoying the morning sun. Some are talking, some are on their own, some are playing cards, sipping on mate (a tea).

In one outside courtyard, there are two tables set up in the corner. One is surrounded by chairs and has two microphones on it. The other has a computer and a four-channel mixer. There are wires that then go to a room off the courtyard, through a large open window.

This is Saturday morning at Vilardevoz – a radio station that is the voice of the patients of the Vilarde hospital. From about 9:30 to 1:00 during most of the year, this is an open time on the radio station. Any patient can participate if they wish, and people from the outside can join in as well. There are a set of volunteers who help put the station on the air. Some are former patients (“alumni,” let’s call them). Participants get a chance to talk about what is on their mind, about issues at the hospital, about societal views of mental health, whatever. Some clearly come with a prepared talk, written out carefully on scraps of paper. Some conversations seem to move in the moment, as participants question each other and debate issues. All of it is under the watchful ear of the volunteers and a few psychologists who are on staff.

We go in to the courtyard that is the radio station. We wave to a few folks at the microphones, smile, and meet Diego, an alumnus of Vilarde who will be our guide and sometimes translator, and Santiago (a psychologist at the hospital). Santiago tells me right away that he loves the Canadian flag, saying it is one of the most beautiful in the world. He also remembers studying in university about one of the former federal ministers of health from Canada. He can’t remember the name. I try to think of a minister of health who did something important. We both search the hard drives of our memory for the name. “La-la something,” Santiago thinks out loud. “Lalonde?” “Si, Lalonde!” “Marc Lalonde!” Santiago and I are united in our victory over this little puzzle. However, why a Psychology student in Uruguay would have to read about Marc Lalonde is beyond me. I make a mental note to Google Mr. Lalonde later.

Diego proudly shows us the banner for the station. It is a large bright yellow sign, with the logo: "Vilardevoz... locos por la radio!" "Loco" has about the same meaning in English as in Spanish. I don't think that sign would go over well in Canada, without a protest. But they love their logo here, since the patients came up with it themselves. I'm not about to tell them it might be seen by some to be in bad taste. Diego and his friends have a good laugh as they explain it to us.

I ask about whether all of the officials at the hospital support the station, which initiates an animated discussion. Apparently, there is a complicated relationship between the hospital administration and the radio station. Even though the station has operated since 1997, they have generally done it without the blessing of the various directors of the hospital. "Does the current Director listen to the station," I ask one of the volunteers? "No, I don't think so," they say quickly, with a chuckle. But Vilardevoz is a recognized official station under the recent law regarding community radios, sanctioned by the Ministry in charge of radio, and so it has the right to continue to broadcast -- even if the patients sometimes talk about the conditions in the hospital or their concern about the usage of medications or the lack of support when they integrate back into society.

"When the patients talk, some people get nervous," one person noted, smiling. "But," I asked, "is it not a goal of mental health therapy to get patients to talk, to listen to others, to draw a line of connection between their own experience and that of others?" To be honest, I didn't quite say it like that, since it was partly in Spanish and the other part (the words I didn't know) in English. "Si, yes, por supuesto, of course," they answer (in the same spirit of Spanglish). But they are among the converted.

Within a few minutes, we hear our names on the radio... "vamos hablar con dos canadienses, Maria y Ivan...." Shortly afterwards, our names go up on a chart on the wall which indicates the running order of the radio show for the day (which is in transition throughout the morning). So much for being invisible observers. There is a mixture of people present. I have to keep stopping myself from trying to decide whether someone is a patient or a volunteer or a family member or a former patient or a psychologist... or just a visiting researcher. It is a welcoming group, warm and inclusive. To create boundaries would be against the spirit of this place on this morning.

We have our interview. It is an exercise in community translation, for both languages. But we share a similar vision for community radio, and 40 minutes disappears quickly. They want to know about Canada. Is the media there controlled by the state? Is there community radio? Was there really two metres of snow when we left our country? Do people have the right to speak out? Does everyone have their chance to be heard on the media? What do I think is the best model for community radio?

In response to the last question, I say "after this morning, I think that the best model is Vilardevoz." The place erupts in cheers. OK, it was maybe a bit cheesy, kind of like playing to the hometown crowd. But I follow up by pointing out that the things that were happening there that morning were what I thought **have to happen** to make local radio work. It was a true community, people felt that they were included, they were allowed to speak honestly about their true feelings, and it

was addressing what people needed to talk about (and which other media could not address in the same way). But mostly, it was fun. And if community radio isn't fun, it isn't worth doing. I wasn't being cheesy then, because I actually believe those things.

At the end of our interview, Diego suggests that we play a song together – he on guitar and me on harmonica. He begins singing a local song, and is joined by a chorus of other voices. The stars align at that moment, since the song was in the key of “G.” And that was the very same key that my one and only harmonica was in. And so we end our interview with a song together. A Latino beat, Spanish lyrics, and a Newfoundland harmonica.

Handshakes, smiles and kisses, and we get up from the microphones to rejoin the rest of the folks. We're just a couple of gringos from the north who are part of the community that is Vilardevoz on this particular Saturday morning.

You can look up more information about Vilardevoz (the station) on the internet (although it will be in Spanish – you can use Google Translate to get a bit of a sense of what they are talking about). Their web page (on which you can sometimes listen in to the broadcast) is: radiovilardevoz.wordpress.com Their Facebook site, which includes pictures of their broadcasts (including the one we took part in), is at: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Radio-Vilardevoz/152357398168947> (but you'll need a Facebook account for this).

“As every radio listener knows, it's amazing how much you can see with your ears”
(Ashleigh Brilliant)

Bingo on Bell Island!



By: Kelly Russell

I have never bought a lottery ticket, played a VLT machine, or participated in any other form of gambling. I have always considered these activities a waste of money, the chances of winning so small as to be unrealistic. Plus I know that a lot of money is being made on the backs of people who throw their money away in a desperate bid to "get rich quick". So I have never gambled. Likewise I never played Bingo..... that is until this year. The bingo game that I once despised has rescued our community radio station. Bingo has become the financial life blood of Radio Bell Island.

Our station was permanently established in 2012 with money fundraised from the community, \$11,000 to be exact. We also received a small grant from Government but the funds were soon spend on studio equipment and monthly utility bills and by June 2014 there was less than \$500 left in bank account. How were we to keep things afloat with no income? Bingo maybe? A radio bingo just like they do on VOCM? Why not? It might be a gamble but it was worth taking the chance.

We formed a three way partnership between St. Michaels High School, Tourism Bell Island and Radio Bell Island (running a bingo involves a fair bit of work each week). We applied for and received a lotto license and we spent our last remaining dollars on Bingo Cards. Talk about gambling. We ran Radio Bell Bingo on Sunday evenings at 6pm, a time we figured everyone was likely to be home. For the first few weeks we lost money, but the loss was a little less each week and after a month or so we began to see some potential. Then tragedy struck. The School Board informed us that they were going to replace the roof of that portion of the school directly over our heads in the radio station. We had to shut down the station for three weeks and remove all the equipment. We got back on the air by mid August but by then we had lost what little momentum we had with Bingo and it was back to

square one, losing money once again. But we couldn't quit. We were solidly hooked on the belief that this would eventually pay off. Our luck would turn soon; it had to.

It was a calculated gamble, based on solid intelligence. We knew our fellow Bell Islanders bought lotto tickets and also loved to play Bingo. Surely it was just a matter of time. Sure enough, by mid September things started to pick up. The Jackpot slowly escalated each week that it wasn't won. To \$1000, to \$1500, to \$2000 and upward. And as the Jackpot grew so did sales, beyond our wildest dreams. The Jackpot topped out at \$8000 and the excitement was palpable. We had twelve retail outlets on the Island and they couldn't keep the cards in stock. Sunday afternoons saw us fervently stamping (validating) more cards and scurrying about town re-stocking the stores.

Radio Bell Bingo became a weekly community event as families and friends gathered in each other's homes. Even groups of men who had never played bingo before were gathering in their sheds with a case of beer and a stack of bingo cards. The streets of Bell Island were deserted by 5:30 on a Sunday afternoon, everyone home with multiple cards spread out of the kitchen table and dabbers at the ready. I can't share with readers just how many bingo cards we sold each week but the school just invested in 30 new iPads and a new deck outside the cafeteria, Tourism has funded several significant community projects and Radio Bell Island is considering hiring a paid Station Manager.

Well a few months ago the Jackpot finally went and a very lucky Bell Islander was richer by \$8000. Sales have dropped somewhat since then as the frenzy has died down a little. But, you know, that Jackpot is growing again every week, over \$5000 now. And sales? You guessed it; they are on the increase once again. It has become a very successful fundraiser for the entire partnership and I'm certain it will continue to be so for many years to come. In fact..... I'm willing to bet on it.



Bingo has become the financial lifeblood of Radio Bell Island.

Webcasting in Ferryland

By: Jacinta McGrath

It has been three years in the making and with much anticipation Southern Shore Sounds is getting ready to go live full time over the World Wide Web. Creating a live full time radio broadcast first came on the horizon in 2012 when a grant from the Provincial Government allowed the Baltimore School Community to have its first week long radio program. With participation from the school children, community members and outside agencies the event proved to be a huge success!



After getting their feet wet with the first run through, Southern Shore Sounds were ready to take on a second special broadcast in the Spring of 2013. With the help of Ryakuga's Fred Campbell, the second event was just as much a success as the initial undertaking. Singers, songwriters, politicians, and local community members were all part of the week long program. Not only was this a chance to share in the history, culture and talents of the people on the Southern Shore but it was also a tremendous learning experience for young and old alike. The younger generation availed of this opportunity to interview grandparents and learn what life was like the 'olden days', while the older generation reveled in the technological operations of running a radio station - iPods, laptops and sound gear came second nature to the radio gang before the week was out.



With two solid weeks of programming under our belts, the radio committee lead by Chair Harry Brien has been working to get approval for a full time license. This is a lengthy process, but the troupe is hoping to get the license by the fall of 2015. In the meantime, equipment has been purchased, a room has been built in the schools library and in a few short weeks you should be hearing live broadcasting from Southern Shore Sounds....stay tuned!



Introduction to “All the Voices: Grassroots, Participatory Community Media”

By: Fred Campbell

In 2010 Ryakuga was invited to participate in the Nunavut Department of Education/N-Cap ICT Best Practices project and competition.

The project resulted in the publishing of The Road We Travelled: Our Communities' Voyage to the Future on the ICT Highway.

The book included our (all of us) collaborative rural NL special events in a story - All the Voices.

The story was written by Austin Rice, Community ICT Coordinator, N-CAP / Dept. of Education, Iqaluit, Nunavut.

A reward for participating in this event was a Vaio laptop.



All the Voices: Grassroots, Participatory Community Media

By: Austin Rice

Community Media is not a new idea. It has been around in some form for quite a while but it has been on the decline in most communities for a long time. Community Media includes television, radio and other sources of information sharing. Some communities in Newfoundland have seen a move away from community media towards the assimilating allure of popular culture and increasingly homogenous global media. This story is about counteracting that trend and re-establishing participatory local media. The story mostly involves efforts around community radio but it is much more than that. The projects are locally-driven and are supported through Ryakuga Grassroots Communications.

Newfoundland's community radio efforts are a different approach to an old idea. It is community radio with multiple components. This includes getting the community together to share stories, celebrating their culture in a public place and creating an interactive dialogue as opposed to a one-way flow of information. The last component is using the Internet and new media, such as Skype and Facebook, which can be used in radio.

Participatory communications such as community radio can energize rural communities. It offers a unique space for community members to work together on a project, encourages dialogue and fosters cultural celebration – all shared via radio and the Internet. There is a strong interest in these types of projects amongst people in Newfoundland and very strong support and feedback from the communities that have begun this type of work. Newfoundland is frequently suffering from outmigration due to people seeking opportunities in other parts of Canada and these events can help re-create the community as people can view and participate in the event from wherever they are.

Ryakuga's interest in community radio is principally in a participatory, volunteer-controlled, informal process which focuses on interactive dialogue and cultural celebration. Their efforts include local radio broadcasting and webcasting but with a different approach than conventional radio that is produced entirely within a studio. These projects are instead more collaborative and involve members of the community as content producers and derive their content from interactive community events. The story of Bell Island is a good example of the type of project that happens when this approach is used.

In March 2011, the town of Wabana on Bell Island hosted their first radio event. This community was in trouble after the mine shut down. They needed a communication process so they could start talking to each other and newsletters were not working. Community Radio was the answer. The whole community rallied behind this cause and took it upon themselves to learn the skills required and obtain the equipment needed. A week-long community event took place which was the result of a lot of hard work on the part of the community. It also served as a graduation event for the participants and celebrated their efforts in training themselves. It ran for one week and was hosted by St. Michael's School Library,

where the environment was modified to create a comfortable laid back community atmosphere. Stacks of equipment were brought in and set up throughout the space. The programming was created by volunteers and coverage included news, interviews, a talk show, call-in song requests, sports, history, and lots of other topics selected to attract audiences of all interests and ages. Many people got involved in the project and in creating the programming. The broadcasts were also sent out via webcast and were picked up by many people who had moved away from the community. The project was a real success and there is talk of bringing a permanent live station to the community.

Prior to the week-long event, there were numerous workshops. People would come out and talk about what skills they wanted to learn. A teacher was not thrown at them to tell them what they needed to know. People requested certain skills training and then hired local people to become facilitators as people learned more. The Bell Island experience is an example of how a special community event of limited duration can be used to impart lasting skills and value to a community. Local people are taught to set up their own community radio and are able to connect and share over the internet. Skills are left in the community so that they can replicate these things on their own after the event is over. Regulatory approval is not difficult and can be done through the CRTC. It is relatively inexpensive to setup, with costs running at approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000 for the project, depending on in-kind support.

The Bell Island event was the first project supported by the Rural Communication for Survival Initiative (RSCI) - an inclusive multi-sector 'collaborative process' designed to bring together government departments and agencies, academic institutions, NGOs, community communications groups and private-sector enterprises who have a common interest in advancing the sustainability of rural NL regions and communities through improved communications. Initial collaborators in RSCI include the NL Rural Secretariat, Memorial University (Grenfell Campus), Quanglo and Ryakuga.

Initially (beginning in 1979), the Memorial University extension service sent technology crews to rural communities to implement television transmitter projects. By the end of the 80s there were no more financial resources for technology crews and instead extension workers adopted a popular education methodology meaning "we have no media experts but rather co-participants sharing in a communication/education experience. We don't teach but rather create learning situations and popular education resource materials."

Ryakuga (in collaboration) continued to work in community television after the university eliminated its extension service but local supportive owners sold out to corporations from outside the province. In 2001 they switched to community radio - a medium people find easier to adopt. They were already using the internet - initially for websites and e-mail but then progressed to using CGI discussion boards and software and video-conferencing. Ryakuga actually webcast before they broadcast. It has taken ten years for enough rural communities to get broadband to further utilize internet technologies. Meanwhile they still webcast audio which is compatible with dialup.

One effect of changing from long term, multi stakeholder project to discrete

projects is that there is no longer funding for local facilitators to work with their communities to ensure full participation. The answer to this issue was found in the special events which are also designed to seed long term grassroots participatory community radio groups. There are several community television groups that have lasted for two decades.

The elements necessary to make these projects work are adopting "All the Voices" principles of: Participatory Communications – ordinary people have the right to be heard - but also the responsibility to speak out; Collaboration – for each communication project, look for as many partners as possible emphasizing commonalities rather than differences; Inclusion - in the communities, work with people of all ages and all walks of life (in community media projects, "animateurs" or "encouragers" have included women at home, retired teachers and recent university graduates); Cultural Celebration - the local musicians, who are so important in community events, are not merely entertainers but also create an environment in which people feel good about their culture and who they are (Local people can speak out and plan their own future when they feel pride in themselves. Mainstream media tends to make people who live away from big centres feel inferior and insecure.); Positive Mirroring: Try to stress the positive aspects of the local environment and culture (This is also known as "pride of place." Again, its important for people to feel good about themselves and speak out.); Youth Power - Ben and Friends is one of the most popular programs on VOBB - the Voice of Bonne Bay (A Caribbean Federation of Youth slogan says "Youth, the present answer to the future." Youth are essential in media projects. They are not afraid of the technology. Their energy catalyzes the process. An intergenerational mix is good - older people gain respect for the technical prowess of the youth, while younger people become interested in community issues).

A constant issue with these projects is funding. A decade ago the federal government was interested in participating in long term community development projects and now they are not. So it has been necessary to strategize how to achieve similar long term goals with short term discrete projects. Another issue is the slow adoption of broadband in rural areas of Newfoundland and Labrador. We still have to use dial up for webcasts and relay broadcasts. It's difficult for many people to connect to new Internet communication tools such as Skype, Twitter and FaceBook.

The projects have been fortunate to work with organizations and communities that want to work together. This is possibly related to outmigration and financial pressures which make the benefits of collaboration obvious. Also a grassroots community media process has obvious benefits for all members of the community.

Grassroots, collaborative, participatory, community media processes work best when a number of organizations, even in different communities, can work together without "turf" issues. Successful outcomes are seen when the collaborating organizations have the capacity for long term planning. Another requirement for success is an inclusive process to attract volunteers. There also has to be financial backing, both for permanent community media installations and for special events, but money isn't the secret to the process. People working together to get their messages out is the real secret.

Participatory Community Radio Returns to Bay St. George!

By: Fred Campbell

Participatory Community Radio returned to Bay St. George the week of June 8 - 104.7 stereo FM in Stephenville, 100.1 in St. Georges and 102.5 in Cap St-Georges.



The Bay St. George Live: Making Connections through the Airwaves project featured programming from the Bay St. George mi'Kmaq Cultural Circle in St. Georges (NAWN 10th anniversary), the Centre de Les Terre-Neuviens Français in Cape St. George (Partageons Notre Culture), and the L. S. Eddy complex in Stephenville (the CEN Open House).

Partners in the project - celebrating culture, entrepreneurship, community-university connections and economic development - were the Community Education Network, L'Association Regionale de la Cote Ouest, the Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network, and the Grenfell Office of Engagement.

The first NL community radio special event was in Stephenville in 2001 produced by the Sharing Our Future collaborative.

Bay St. George has hosted more community radio special events than any other region of NL. Each event has been simultaneously webcast.

The events include Stephenville 2001; McKays 2002; Stephenville 2002; Cap St-Georges 2003; Stephenville 2003; McKay's 2003; Stephenville Crossing 2003; Robinsons 2003; La Grand' Terre 2003; St. Georges 2003; St. David's 2003; Piccadilly 2003; Kippens 2003; Stephenville 2004; Stephenville/Bay St. George 2010, and Flat Bay 2012.



In Cap St-Georges 2001 Sharing Our Future and ARCO produced the first Ryakuga internet radio webcast- a community forum on oil. All events are, of course, collaborative efforts joining multiple partners and communities.

Ryakuga's first community media popup event was a collaboration with the Port au Port Community Education Initiative 22 years ago.

More information at: <http://www.ryakuga.ca/bsg15>

Upcoming Events:

By: Fred Campbell

JULY 25 & 26TH IN NORTH WEST RIVER

Stay tuned for the 30th annual North West River Beach Festival, July 25/26.

Once again the Beach Festival will be enhanced with a simultaneous stereo FM radio broadcast (92.5 FM) and webcast.

We also plan to set up an FM repeater station (95.1 FM) in Happy Valley Goose Bay.

Thanks to George Saunders and Labrador Specialty Services for hosting the HVGB station.

Sound guy and emcee for the beach festival will again be, of course, Johnny Kelland of Big Land Audio.

A highlight for Ryakuga at the 2014 North West River Beach Festival were the Sundogs from Nain with guest Jacinda Beals performing with, of course, Fireworks.



The North River Beach Festival at 30 years old is the longest running summer music festival in Labrador.

Sandsculpting on the beach is always a popular event at the annual North River Beach Festival.



You will be able to tune in to the festival's global webcast at <http://www.ryakuga.ca>

More information and the history of the Beach Festival -
<http://www.nwrbeachfestival.com/>

JULY 28 – AUGUST 2 MIAWPUKEK FIRST NATION CONNE RIVER



Miawpukek First Nation's 20th annual powwow will be broadcast on community radio 104.7 stereo FM

Miawpukek First Nation is partnering with Ryakuga to broadcast and webcast the 20th annual Powwow.

We will broadcast locally on 104.7 Stereo FM and simultaneously webcast for a global audience (July 28 - August 2).

Miawpukek First Nation is in the process of applying for its own permanent community radio station.

From the Miawpukek Powow website:

Located on the South Coast of Newfoundland, the Miawpukek First Nation – Conne River is the only recognized Reserve on the island of Newfoundland.

In July and August of 2015 we will be hosting traditional dancers, drummers, spiritual leaders; elders from across the Mi'kmaq Nation will converge on the most eastern Province to celebrate their traditions, culture, and spiritualism.



This year's Powwow will be the final part of our Miawpukek Cultural Celebrations and Come Home Year 2015 which starts on July 24th.

For more information: <http://www.mfngov.ca/powwow/>

To tune in to the global internet radio webcast: <http://www.ryakuga.net>

Thanks to Trevor Stride for the photos.



Do you want to be a part of an
exciting committee solely devoted to
community radio events in
Newfoundland and Labrador?

Do you want to help form a
Network Committee?

If interested, please reply to
Mallary at mallary_m@hotmail.com