

New at the library

Fiction: Eye of the storm, Jack Higgins.

Non-Fiction: Beyond suspicion: true stories of unexpected killers, Frank Jones. Baby proofing basics, Vicki Lansky.

Young People: The Random House hook of how things were built, David J. Brown.

Video: Do your own wedding elegantly and affordably.

Compact Disc: 1960 Still rockin'.

Large Print: Downtown, Ed McBain (mystery).

Government Publication: Guelph Street: phase VI, Maple Avenue to Main Street, Town of Halton Hills.

Fiction: Crystal line, Anne McCaffrey (science fiction). The keeper, Meg O'Brien (suspense).

Non-Fiction: Islands of hope: Ontario's parks and wilderness, Wildlands League.

French: Vous et votre chien, Larousse.

Reference: Local History, directory of associations in Canada 1992-1993, Micromedia Limited.

Young People: Partners in play: homemade toys for toddlers, Rita Anderson.

Compact Disc: Symphony sessions, David Foster (piano).

Talking Book: Janus man, Colin

Forbes (action adventure).

Fiction: The copper beach, Maeva Binchy. A fine Italian nand, Eric Wright (An Inspector Charlie Salter mystery).

Non-Fiction: Daytripper 2: 50 trips in and around Toronto, Donna Gibbs Carpenter. The book of strange: a journey, Sylvia Fraser.

Reference: Gibson's Guide to graduate and professional programs at Ontario universities, Dyanne Gibson.

Young People: Make your own greeting cards, by Steve and Megumi Biddle.

Compact Disc: The bagpipes and drums of Scotland, The Gordon Highlanders.

Fiction: The covenant, by Pauline Gedge; Silent prey, by John Sanford.

Non-Fiction: Canada 1892: portrait of a promised land, by Peter C. Newman; Low-salt cookbook, American Heart Association.

French Non-Fiction: La Terre et la vie, by Yves Paccalet.

Video: Stephen King's World of horror; The silver chair, BBC series; The Chronicles of Narnia, based on the novels by C.S. Lewis.

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What is scrambling (encryption)?
Scrambling (encryption) is the altering of a signal from a source (a satellite). Descrambling is the re-creation of the video and audio. Programmers scramble their signal and then authorize descrambling, once payment has been received.

How?
It works much like the 649 lottery. Each descrambler unit has its own individual address (combination of numbers). When you subscribe to "Paid For Programming", your combination of numbers (address) is sent up to the satellites. If you have paid for a scrambled channel, your individual combination of numbers "Wins the Jackpot" and, you see and hear the result in your viewing room in less than a second. **TRULY AMAZING!**

Why do programmers (First Choice, TSN, HBO, ESPN) scramble their signal?
Because, the programmers pay someone for the "rights" to broadcast the shows they send into our viewing rooms. In the case of the movie services, the programmer pays the movie studios. In the case of sports events, the programmer pays the various sports leagues. There is another very good reason for the programmers charging us for their scrambled channel. It costs the programmers millions of dollars to beam their signal up to the satellite, and to have that channel scrambled using their chosen encryption (scrambling) technology.

How many of the available channels on a satellite system are scrambled?
When you are speaking of an 18 satellite, C band system (the kind most consumers purchase), surprisingly, very few are scrambled. If you read last week's column, you learned there are 186 "FREE and in the clear" channels. Our count of the scrambled channels in the current listings of ONSAT, Canada's weekly satellite guide, indicates 97. Twice as many "FREE" channels as scrambled.

How many scrambled channels must I buy?
As many or as few as you wish. Most consumers purchase 6 to 8, some purchase more. The choice is YOURS.

Credit: Bill Barr, Editor **ONSAT**

NEXT WEEK: What types of scrambling systems are there?

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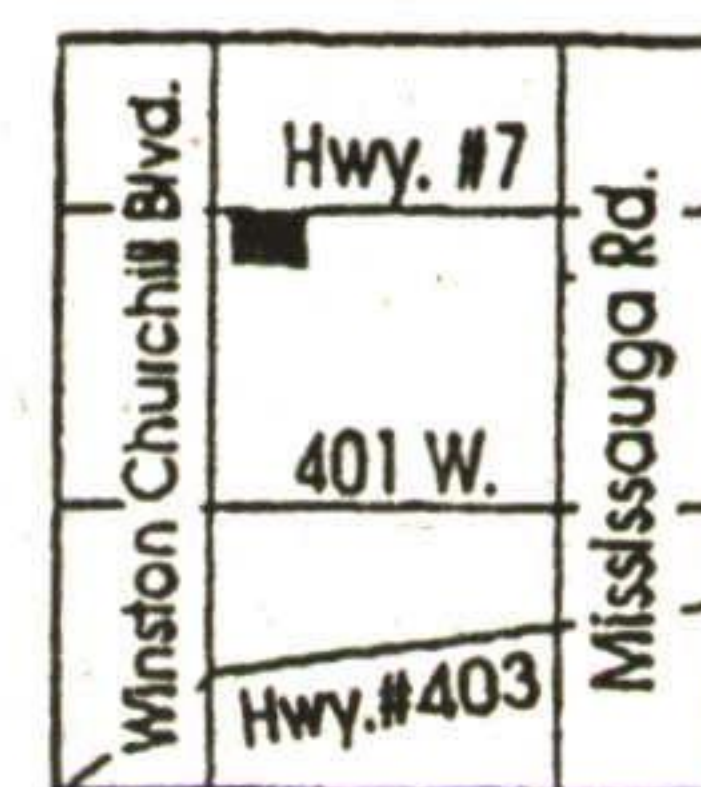
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