



Switch to Camera Two!

Microwave improves service

In 1981, Maclean Hunter Cable TV once again took a giant step to improve television services offered to its customers. For several years Maclean Hunter has been striving to improve reception on several popular distant TV stations from Buffalo which have been marginally received in this area.

Atmospheric conditions and weather disturbances have been the source of many troubles over the years and have resulted in much customer dissatisfaction and frustration. These disturbances cause colour fading, snowy reception and interference by unwanted TV signals situated thousands of miles away in other parts of the world.

Improved reliability and quality, a goal which cable TV personnel continue to strive for, became a reality on July 1, 1981, when Maclean Hunter Cable TV was able to offer its customers a vastly improved reception of WKBW Ch. 7 Buffalo, as well as WNED Ch. 17 Buffalo.

This event marks another mile stone in the history of cable television in this area. For the first time cable TV subscribers have 12 channels of highly reliable, consistent TV reception available at their fingertips.

These improved channels are imported to the Georgian Bay area using a high quality "microwave" relay system. The Buffalo signals are received "off air" near Streetsville where they are processed and converted to the "super high frequency" communications link. This communication system is highly reliable because it uses point to point relay stations spaced 20-30 miles apart in "line of sight" with each other.

The microwave frequencies are less sensitive to interference caused by variable atmospheric and weather conditions. These point to point relay systems are similar to ones which transport TV signals coast to coast with a minimum of interference and a high degree of reliability.

The cable television industry is caught up in a communication explosion which is resulting in the creation of additional services and TV channels being offered to remote areas which have remained relatively underserved in comparison to larger metropolitan centers. Small communities ranging in population from a few hundred to a few thousand are being exposed to television stations by way of satellites 22,000 miles above the earth's equator.

The Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) have recently opened the doors for a Canadian Pay Television System to be operational by April 1983. Maclean Hunter is continuing in their program to upgrade the facilities in order to make these services available to its subscribers.

Cable 12: a reflection on you

In the past year Maclean Hunter Cable TV's community channel, Cable 12 has become a full-fledged colour television facility. Our current project is to build a self-contained mobile production vehicle. We have purchased the new van and work is underway to outfit it with our mobile equipment. This vehicle will be in essence a "mobile control room", making it much easier to produce programs around the region.

The major emphasis in programming this season is to involve and highlight each community in our viewing area. One month is dedicated to each town or village and so far Victoria Harbour, Port McNicoll and Midland have been featured. Response has been excellent with many area residents getting involved in a variety of interesting programs.

This is the third year for our Georgian Bay

Songwriters' Competition, held in conjunction with Maclean Hunter studios in Collingwood and Owen Sound. We have twenty-five local people entered and several look like potential prize-winners. Our final concert will be held at Kelso Beach near Owen Sound during Canada Week.

An interesting series to watch on Cable 12 this spring is being taped with the Georgian Bay Gourmets.

Each of the authors will be preparing a favourite menu, presenting cooking and entertaining tips, and welcoming local celebrities to help with the cooking.

There are many other programs and projects in the works at Cable 12 but we are always looking for ideas and new people who wish to get involved. Cable 12 is a community resource, free for local residents to use. Why not call the programming staff at 526-7905 today?

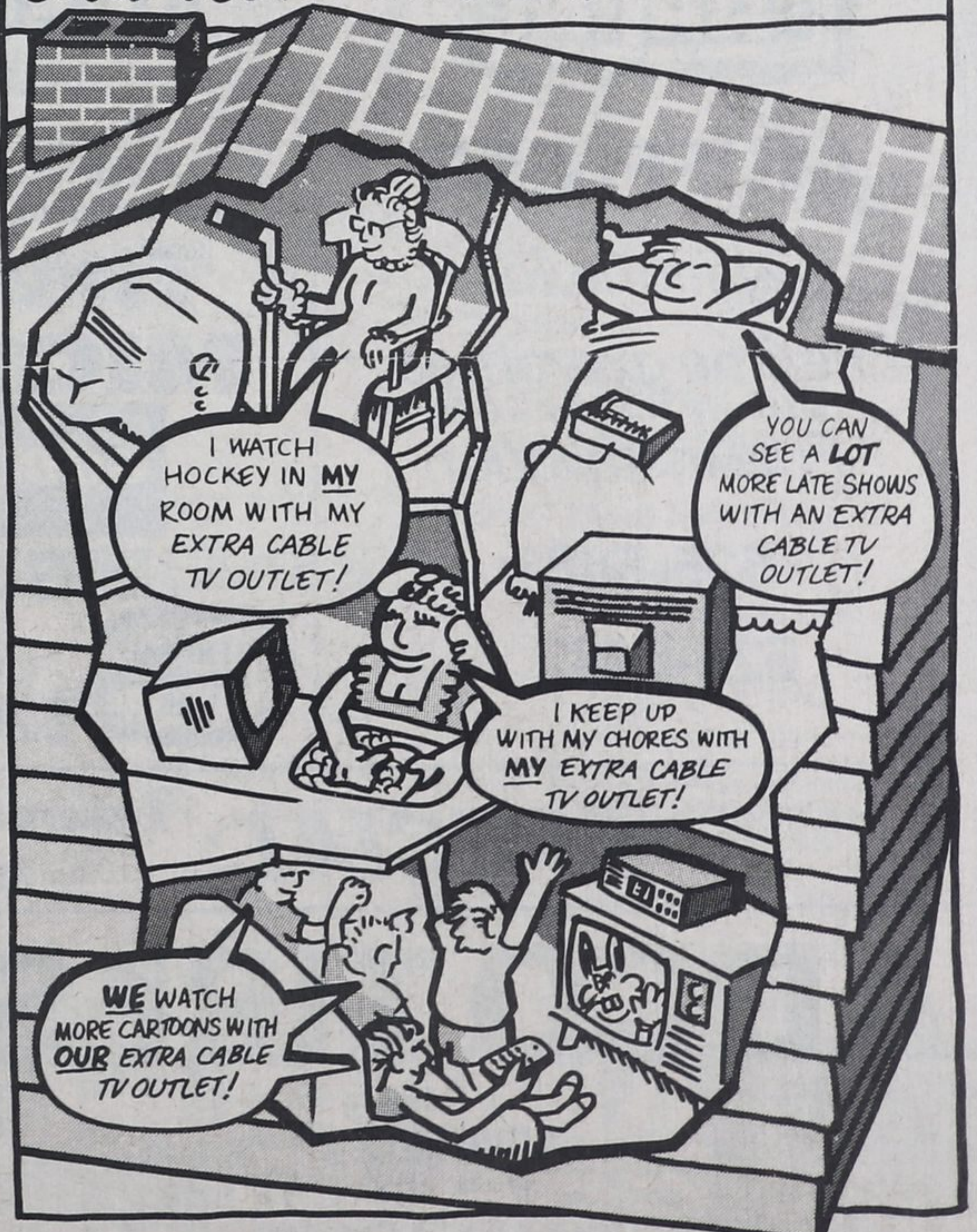
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