

## Northern Insights

# Quick and dirty cuts to CBC

continued from page 2

What's left of public broadcasting? In television, its exactly the kind of CBC the private broadcasters want - a CBC that's out of lucrative local markets. My fear is that the same thing will happen to radio in next year's cuts, estimated to be another \$50 million. The private broadcasters lobbying group, the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) has publicly argued for years that CBC should not do local radio programming. The CAB has read the same surveys any journalism student has - people listen to radio first for weather, second for local news, third for national news, fourth for sports, and last for international news. Thus, the CAB wants to put private broadcasters in the best position possible to meet that "local" demand.

If CBC management follows the pattern of the 1990 cuts in the next round, CAB will get its wish, and local CBC radio will be cut - perhaps not completely, but at least drastically and definitely without warning. We Canadians will then have to ask ourselves whether our local information needs are met when the only choice we have is private sector broadcasters.

the cuts on those same stations, on programs produced by journalists who would obviously be sympathetic to the protests because their jobs would be disappearing on March 31st, 1991.

CBC management thus did the federal government a really big favour. Sure, there will be lots of petitions and complaints from communities upset with the station closures. But all these efforts are too late - after the horse has left the barn.

Had CBC management followed the earlier strategy of warning what cuts were coming, before putting them into effect, there would have been more opportunity (as there was with CBC Radio in 1985) to convince Ottawa decision-makers to change their plans.

Those decision-makers must have also reviewed the way cuts were made to VIA Rail - with over three months to develop large public protests. Better, they must have decided this time, to make it quick and get it over with, and keep public opposition to a minimum. By doing the government a quick and dirty favour this time, maybe the government will be kinder to the CBC in future.

## Letters

Continued from page 4

Residents of Schreiber should be proud and thankful that someone took the time to share with the entire community in such a thoughtful way. I commend those responsible for decorating the tree.

It is wonderful to know that someone took time out during the hectic Christmas season to do some good for everyone.

Jenni Scott,  
Red Rock, Ont.

Dear Editor:

There was a small miracle that happened in our town of Schreiber during the Christmas holiday. One evening while casually looking out our west window, there appeared on the horizon a beautiful, lit Christmas tree as if from the sky. We wish to thank Gerry Thrower and his friends for their fertile imagination of spreading the Christmas spirit.

Dorothy Lengyel  
Schreiber, Ont.

## Terrace Bay Recreation

**St. John's Emergency First Aid:**

Feb. 9, Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Cathy Withers  
Registration deadline: Friday, Jan. 25.

**CPR Heartsaver:**

Feb. 23, Saturday, 1 - 3 p.m.  
Cathy Withers, Registration deadline: Friday, Feb. 9.

**Fashion with a Flair for teens:**

Feb. 3 - March 10, Sunday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Basic sewing course will be offered for teens. For more information call 825-9555 or the Recreation Office. Must have a portable sewing machine.

**Beginner Sewing:**

Feb. 6 - March 14 - Tuesday & Wednesday, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Elise Kenny.

The participant will learn basic sewing techniques. For more information call Elise at 825-9555 or the Recreation Office. Must supply your own machine.

**Parenting:**

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit and the Recreation Department will be co-sponsoring a program on Parenting. Details will be made available as soon as possible.

**Fitness Room Orientation:**

Jan. 12, Saturday or Feb. 23, 10 a.m. - 12 noon & 1 - 3 p.m. Gordie Phillips. Participants must be 13 years of age and over. This program will teach you how to use the Fitness Room equipment and basic skills.

**Babysitting:**

Feb. 18-22 and Feb. 25-26, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Debbie Corrigan. Registration deadline: Friday, Feb. 8. This program is open to anyone 11 years and older.

## All the World's a Circus

# Getting by Gerda

continued from page 2

"I'm sorry, but I am not authorized to accept any unsolicited material."

Not authorized! After last year's Christmas party, Gerda dressed the company truck drivers up in Salvation Army uniforms and tried to take over the town of Orangeville.

"Sir. I'm sorry, but you're tying up my line," says Gerda.

No and yes. No, she's not sorry, and yes I'd like to tie that line up with Gerda's neck in it. If she had one.

"Why don't you speak with Mr. Gressler, I'm sure he can help you."

"No, please, not Gressler again..." and here's where I lose it. "Well it's a shame that Mr. Cooperman didn't have a minute for me because my brilliant idea is to take over-bearing, stonewalling, obnoxious Protective Secretaries and laminate them on the four-roller plastic press your company operates and then sell them as life-size dart boards to people who have great ideas but can't get through to the proper manager. There's a huge market out there for this kind of thing."

"Well, I never..." huffs Gerda.

"Oh sure you have...probably with a whole tank division," I say before I hear the gasp.

"And furthermore - Cooperman - you're a coward!" I think I heard a faint click before the main line went dead.

Before you even consider trying to stickhandle a great idea past the Protective Secretary remember the sign on her desk reads: "The Puck Stops Here!"

### Thank You

I have already thanked my maker and doctors and nurses of St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto for my successful operation. Now it is time to thank all the good people of Schreiber and Terrace Bay for their prayers and masses. God bless you all. Thanks to all who phoned me, sent cards and flowers in Toronto. Thanks to all my friends of the Chimo Club for their cards. Also to the ladies of the Anglican Church, also the C.W.L. and the sisters. I would like to thank my dear friends, the Ryans, for taking me to and from Schreiber, Thunder Bay and return twice, getting my mail and looking after things, and taking me to the doctor. I would like to thank Pat Moore for driving me to the hospital. Thanks to all who visited me there. Thanks to Marilyn Doig and Elsie Ross for the flowers and candy. Thanks to Fr. Campbell and the ministers of the Community Church for their visit. Thanks to the women who brought me Communion. Thanks to Harold McParland for driving me home from the hospital. Thanks to Loretta for the hot supper that was sent over. Thanks to Jack and Helen Stokes for the lovely fruit basket, also for driving me to the Doctor's. I would like to thank, Maxine Holland and all her grade 5 & 6 students for their lovely get well cards that they made themselves. God Bless you.

I certainly appreciated them.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my daughter, Pat and her husband Bob for bringing me hot meals everyday. I sure hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

God Bless you and I thank you all.

Sincerely,  
Johnny Gagnon

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**It's a Boy!**

Paula and Brian (Arn) are happy to announce the safe arrival of their son, Dackery Leonard on December 13, 1990 at the Victoria Hospital in London. Proud grandparents are Ruth Hiller of Schreiber, Fran Pierce of North Bay and Godfrey Carrier of Elliot Lake.