



These giant reflectors will enable area residents to receive programs from television stations 184 miles away. The reflectors gather the signals from the air and concentrate them on a focal point. There they are picked up and fed to electronic

equipment which filters out interference. The picture is then transmitted through coaxial cable to homes. Cable television is expected to reach Fort Garry and St. Vital in about one month.

July 1968

BUT FORT GARRY SEES HURDLE

Cable TV In Month: Firms

Cable television — a private service for which a fee will be charged — will be made available to some residents of Fort Garry and St. Vital in about a month, officials of two local cable television companies said Tuesday.

Installation is being made on a progressive basis in Greater Winnipeg and won't all be completed for about two years, officials of Metro Videon Limited and Greater Winnipeg Cablevision Limited said at a press conference.

But there is a possibility the service may not go ahead on schedule in Fort Garry, it was learned today.

Mayor R. A. Wankling of Fort Garry said in an interview his council is considering levying a three per cent tax on Metro Videon's revenue from services provided.

Lawyers are at work trying to establish whether this would be in accordance with the Manitoba Municipal Act, Mayor Wankling said.

Failing that, Metro Videon would certainly have to

purchase a \$50 business licence and it is "possible, though not probable," Fort Garry municipal council would refuse to grant the firm the licence, he said.

St. Vital city council has already taken that bull by the horns. Early this year, council passed a resolution that Greater Winnipeg Cablevision Ltd. be taxed three per cent of its "gross revenue for services provided."

It is understood Greater Winnipeg Cablevision has been informed of the resolution in a letter dated June 7, but the letter hasn't been acknowledged.

Both companies, however, said operations would proceed on schedule.

The two companies, with their master parabolic antennae and other television equipment at St. Norbert, describe these facilities as the largest in North America.

Signals are received from distant television stations, boosted by amplifiers, freed of interference and then transmitted to the home by means of coaxial cable, in much the same way as power or telephone services are distributed.

Viewers will have access to American stations affiliated with NBC, CBS and ABC networks.

Greater Winnipeg Cablevision will be handling all installations east of the Red River while Metro Videon will cover the west side. Both will use existing Manitoba Telephone system facilities for the cables where possible, but in new development areas the cables will be buried.

The companies will charge an initial installation fee of \$10 and a monthly rental fee of \$5 with additional connections available at a monthly rental of \$1.50 each.

Installation will proceed northwards along the Red River with the companies dividing their districts into approximately 20 smaller areas, in the order of service.

For FM radio fans, four

bands can be picked up on the television set with this cable, while a separate connection to an FM radio will make possible the reception of seven FM stations.

For the multi-million dollar project as many local people as possible have been hired, the firms said.

Greater Winnipeg Cablevision said in a press statement more than 86,000 feet of cable in both aerial and underground locations has been installed and that when finished will total almost 300 miles.

Other major Canadian centres which already have cable television include Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. The two companies claim there are now 13,000,000 cable television viewers in North America.

A representative of Metro Videon suggested that in the future it might be possible for the companies to beam the boosted signals to microwave towers located near northern communities. Through a cable hookup, these centres would have the same program selection offered here.

7 Going To Teach Abroad

Seven Manitoba teachers have been selected by the department of national defence to teach in its European schools starting this fall.

The seven are Douglas Thompson and Daniel Hrabluk of Winnipeg, Jacob Dyck and Carol E. Marcelle of Brandon, Roy V. Johnson of Treherne, Mrs. Juliette Folk of Gimli, and Mrs. Margaret McTaggart of Portage la Prairie. Mr. Johnson will teach in The Netherlands; the other six in West Germany.

Five Manitoba teachers are returning from West Germany this year after completing defence department teaching assignments.

They are Maxine Shelton of Winnipeg, Lorraine Regier of St. Vital, Luella Fleet of Thompson, Ruth Hanke of Assiniboia, and Lorenzo P. Tougas of Glenboro. Miss Hanke taught for four years; the other four for the regular two-year term.

St. John's Boy Tops In Physics

"Why is the sky blue?" "What causes a rainbow?"

The answers to these questions earned Robert B. Israel of St. John's Technical High School a prize of \$250 and a special \$50 tuition allowance from the University of Manitoba.

The youth placed first in a province-wide Grade 12 physics



The Gregoires Are No. 1 Cable TV Family Here

The first cable television service in Manitoba was linked to the home of Ralph Gregoire, 944 De L'Eglise Street, St. Norbert, Tuesday.

The linkup was made by Metro Videon Ltd. which will provide cable television to metropolitan Winnipeg west of the Red River. The company started operation in 1966 and is headed by Randy Moffat, president of CKY, and head of a Western Canadian broadcasting chain.

The Gregoires, who are avid fans, and have had TV since CBC came on the air in 1952, will now be able to watch eight channels and listen to four frequency modulation stations. FM radio is a side benefit of cable installation.

Mrs. Gregoire, who has four children ranging from 18 years to six, said they would watch 24 hours a day if she would let them.

St. Norbert, where the receiving station is located on Trappist Road, is the first area to be serviced.

The cable, which is carried on power poles in older areas, has already reached the Pembina Highway subway. But, at the moment, Videon's subscription drive is being concentrated in St. Norbert. Recruitment of subscribers is being carried out from south to north. It will eventually entail 700 miles of cable and an expected enrolment of 50 per cent of the potential homes.

The receiving station, which is fully automated, will pick up signals from TV stations in Winnipeg and the North Dakota points of Pembina, Valley City, and Fargo. It will also pull in reception from all FM stations in Winnipeg, Grand Forks,

Fargo, and Brandon.

The receiving station includes a building with pickup and transmission facilities and three parabolas which catch the signals bounced off the troposphere by the transmitting stations.

Installation is simple and takes about half an hour. Two small lines are tapped into the heavy cable running by a house. The installation fee is \$10 and the monthly rental is \$5.

The programs shown are a direct "feed" from the emitting station, not a special "feed". All commercials and other content are picked up by the cable subscribers. Videon does not produce any programs, or have any production facilities to give the viewer any special consideration.

General manager C. R. Boucher, a native of Manitoba, says he fully expects the cable TV will eventually make television stations obsolete.

Mr. Boucher says there is nothing in the Municipal Act requiring the company to be licensed. He contacted all the municipalities in Metro asking their regulations on licensing the cable and several replied that they were looking into the matter.

The Canadian Radio and Television Commission, successor to the Board of Broadcast Governors, has cable TV under study but have not come up with any rules governing the media. They will meet again in September and the cable is number one on the agenda.

While the outlay to establish cable in a metropolitan station is greater than establishing a TV station on the limited scale done in Canada, the rewards for

the cable men would seem greater over the long haul.

The estimated cost of piping Videon to municipalities west of the Red is \$14 million. There are close to 400 cable systems in Canada and 2,100 in the United States. The only provinces to apply sales tax to the home owner who has the two small lines attached to his home, are Manitoba and Quebec.

Videon is now employing about 24 people, most of them servicemen. It has 15 mobile installation units and expects to have more than 40 when working to full potential. Mr. Boucher estimates they will have the area completely serviced in three years. At the moment, 10 per cent of the cable has been installed. Most cable will be overhead, but in the newer areas it will go underground with other utilities.

SHOW GOES

Python

A 10-foot long Malaysian regal python has come to the rescue of Winnipeg go-go dancer Lolita.

The \$400 snake arrived from Texas during the weekend and now is being used in the act. Lolita had to give up the act last week when her seven snakes died.

The blonde dancer can stop the fire-eating dance she was forced to use last week, even though doctors warned her it was bad for her health.

"I haven't had time to get him doing some of the tricks my last python knew, but I'm

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