

Listening In Articles

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CHNX 6130 kHz Halifax, Nova Scotia

IN 1926 CHNS started broadcasting a few hours each day. The official first day was May 12. CHNS was Nova Scotia's first radio station. Studios were in the Carleton Hotel and CHNS broadcast on a frequency of 930 kHz, using a 500 watt transmitter. Two years later they moved to the Lord Nelson Hotel. In 1930 CHNS moved to 910 kHz, but back to 930 in 1934.

W.R. MacAskill NSARM accession no. 1987-453 no. 3833 www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/



above: an early photo of the Lord Nelson Hotel

The Canadian National Railways used the CHNS facilities and staff to run Phantom Station CNRH until they closed down their network in 1931. There was no CRBC or CBC station in Halifax until 1944 and CHNS acted as the CBC outlet until then, producing many network shows, including covering the Moose River Mine disaster of 1936, which made CHNS regular J. Frank Willis, a household name across North America with his five minute hourly broadcasts from the mine site for five straight days until the miners were rescued.

On March 29, 1941, a continent-wide shift of radio frequencies took place. CHNS moved from 930 kHz

to 960 kHz.



above: Maj. Borrett saying good-bye to Arlie [Arleigh] Canning, Cecil Landry, Frank Willis and [Lewis] 'Tookie' [Tooky] Murphy en route to Moose River, 1936. They were to broadcast from the accident site for CHNS radio. (From Nova Scotia Archives)

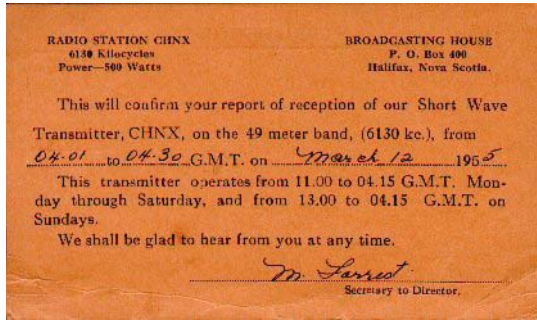


above: CHNS broadcaster in the Remote Car No.1 at Moose River, NS, 1936. (From Nova Scotia Archives)

In 1944 the CBC established its own station - CBH - in Halifax. CHNS continued on as an affiliate because it was this year that the CBC established a second network. CBH was a Trans-Canada station

and CHNS was a Dominion station.

In 1962 the Trans-Canada and Dominion networks were consolidated into a single CBC radio service. CHNS had been the Dominion affiliate while the CBC's CBH was the Trans-Canada station. Following the merger, network service continued on CBH while CHNS became independent.



1955 QSL received by Phil Finkle, California

The following comes from a flyer received from CHNS/CHNX in 1970.

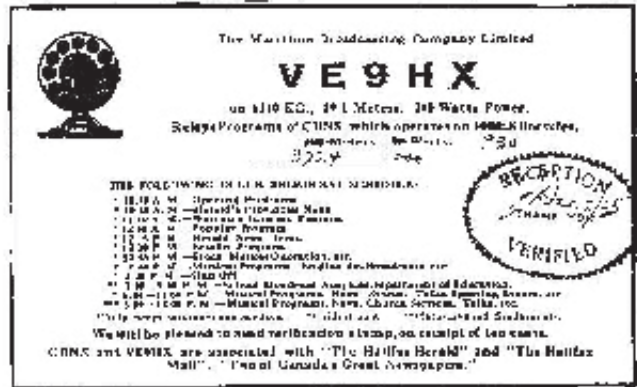
“CHNS Radio and CHNS Shortwave began simultaneous broadcasting in 1931 in Halifax and has remained in Halifax since its inception. We currently operate at 10,000 watts, day and night contour, and at 500 watts on shortwave on the 49 metre band at 6130 kHz.

“CHNS originated in the early 30s, the first round the world shortwave broadcast, when broadcast pioneer J. Frank Willis, carried out the first radio remote broadcast covering the Moose River Disaster. This broadcast was relayed around the world to members of the British Commonwealth and many other foreign nations.

“The primary coverage area of CHNS is within the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada, although the night pattern provides excellent coverage to Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and Labrador. We receive an average of 25 letters a week from Scandinavian countries, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and the United States, where our shortwave reception is reported.”



Originally the shortwave outlet was identified as VE9HX and put out 200 watts on 6110 kHz. In the early days, besides a QSL, the station also provided EKKO stamps to listeners.



In 1975, Chief Engineer Ralph Parker built new quarters for the CHNX shortwave transmitter. This picture was found on the www.uer.ca website. Taken in 2008 it shows the building which housed CHNX. Apparently it has since been demolished.



Chief Engineer Mark Olsen said in 2000 that CHNX had not operated at 500 watts for years and recently had been putting out only 40 to 70 watts, based on the exciter output. QSL reports found online indicate they were at 40 or 50 watts since at least the mid-1990s. In early 2000 CHNX was off the air due to a failure in the transmitter, and it was uncertain if they would return it to the air due to costs.

However, in the fall of 2000, the station was heard in England and North America, IDing as “You’re listening to CHNX rebroadcasting the programming of Oldies 96, CHNS, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on sixty one thirty kilohertz on the 49 meter band.

Our transmitting site is located in Rockingham, a suburb of Halifax, and running 24 hours a day. This is CHNX shortwave." CE Mark Olsen reported that they had returned to the air on October 24th with 40 watts into a G5RV antenna.

In September of 2001, CHNX left the air, again due to transmitter problems and a lack of funding from the parent broadcaster, MBS Radio, kept the shortwave outlet silent. CE Mark Olsen also left the station. MBS Radio operated country music station CHFX 101.9 FM and classic rock CHNS 89.9 FM, both in Halifax, as well as a number of other stations.



Meanwhile, Cumber DX attempted to finance the shipment of a donated transmitter to CHNX. Larry Baysinger of Guatemalan stations Radio K'ekchi and Radio Amistad had offered a 500 watt transmitter if someone would pay the shipping. However, with no funding from MBS Radio for the shortwave outlet, the deal couldn't be completed.

On July 29, 2006, CHNS made the move to FM as "89.9 Hal FM" with a classic rock format, ending 60 years on mediumwave.

CHNS gave a start to some well-known Canadians. Joe Bowen, Sports Director, left in 1982 to become the Toronto Maple Leafs radio play by play announcer.

Mike Duffy was there 1965-69 and then went on to a career with CTV. In 2009 he was appointed a senator by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Hank Snow's professional career started at CHNS Radio in 1933 where he had his own radio show. He changed his name to "Hank, The Yodeling Ranger" because it sounded more western.

	CONFIRMATION OF RECEPTION	
	STATION:	chnx
	FREQUENCY:	6130, 43 Meter Band
	DATE:	October 25, 1971
CHNS - 960 KHZ. 10,000 W.	TIME: 9:00-9:20 PM - Jimi Macdonald CHNS Treasure St. Contest Show Opening Schedule - 24 Hours Daily.	GOOD LISTENING! Have a happy day, Harold
CHNX - 6.13 MHZ. 500 W.	CHNS-FM - 96.1 MHZ. 19,500 W. E.R.P.	 CHNS - CHNX

References:

- Canadian Communications Foundation <http://www.broad-casting-history.ca>
- Nova Scotia Archives <http://gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/menmines/archives.asp?ID=744>
- Popular Communications magazine, June 1986
- E-mail from CE Mark Olsen to Alm-Sweden, Number Uno, July 9, 2000
- E-mail to Hard Core DX by Noel Green, October 25, 2000
- The Electronic DX Press, November 1, 2000
- DXing With Cumbre, Hans Johnson, June 20, 2002
- Website <http://www.uer.ca/locations/show.asp?locid=27001>
- The Classic Short Wave Broadcast QSL Home Page <http://k6eid.tripod.com>
- The SWL QSL Card Museum <http://www.antique-corner.com/SWLQSL/>