

Canadian TV seen in 80 countries

Canadian TV and film productions are now a \$20-million annual export industry, according to a program exporter.

The US Navy will soon be watching Canadian Broadcasting Corporation programs, and in some Southeast Asia countries a Calgary-produced program called *Magic Palace* has challenged *Dallas* for the No. 1 rating.

Canadian shows are now featured in about 80 countries. Britain has been a prime market, but government regulations hold imports to 14 per cent of air time. Continental Europe may have the best potential, because state monopolies have been joined by private networks, cable companies and pay TV, and all are expanding from evenings-only into daytime programming also. In the United States, Home Box Office needs 450 movies a year, but Hollywood produces only about 200.

New wood coating saves work

If your home's wood cladding has a clear coating, chances are you will have to refinish it five times over the next 20 years. These odds will improve 50 per cent, however, if a new coating developed at the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) is marketed.

The finish will last half again as long as the most durable phenolic varnish now available. That should save the average homeowner one complete exterior re-finishing every ten years.

H.E. Ashton and his colleagues at NRC's division of building research began their work on clear finishes by coating standard samples of wood with different commercial finishes, then monitoring them as they weathered outside. During these tests, Ashton's group also examined properties of finish components in the laboratory. Their goal was an improved coating: flexible, strong, unlikely to absorb water, and opaque to the ultraviolet light that makes a finish peel away.

The new coating provides an optimum balance of all these properties. Accelerated weathering tests show the new formula should extend the average time between recoatings from the current figure of four years to six.

NRC is now negotiating with the two largest Canadian-owned paint companies for licensing rights to the longer-lasting finish.

Specially-trained dog provides ears for deaf mom

When the telephone rings in her Scarborough, Ontario home, Linda Barker cannot hear it. But her hearing-ear dog, Shaddow, can.

Linda Barker, 31, her 35-year-old husband, Walter and their two daughters, Nancy, 2 and Laura, 4, all suffer from varying degrees of congenital deafness. Before Shaddow came into their lives, she survived by her wits, fearing for her children's safety because she could not hear if they were in trouble. With Shaddow, says Mrs. Barker, "I feel secure at night."

Limited hearing

"I have some limited hearing," Mrs. Barker explains. "But I can't hear the telephone ringing in the next room, or the children crying. If they need me at night, I don't wake up."

Shaddow reacts to sounds she cannot hear and "tells" her what to do. When the doorbell rings, Shaddow identifies the sound and runs to Mrs. Barker, puts a paw in her lap and urges her to follow to the door. The same practice goes for the telephone (Mrs. Barker can understand only voices she knows well), the children when they cry, or the smoke alarm.

The Barkers used to wake up with the aid of an alarm clock that flashed light onto their faces. Now, Shaddow reacts to the bell and does the wake-up service with face licks.

Shaddow's talents are the result of about six months of training by Hamilton-area kennel owner, Jacqueline Harbour, who devised the method in 1979. She is

recognized as the first person in Canada to train hearing-ear dogs.

"I watched my mother going deaf most of my life and I knew what she needed," Mrs. Harbour says. "So I trained a standard poodle for her. I knew she needed a dog to alert her to certain sounds."

Jacqueline Harbour has trained five dogs for deaf owners. All of her pupils are mixed breeds, most rescued from the Humane Society shelter.

"That's the best place to find a variety of mutts," Mrs. Harbour says. "I look for the exact opposite to a seeing-eye dog — small, outgoing, active, friendly. They are abandoned because they are difficult to handle, but with training, they're perfect for this work."

Mrs. Harbour says patience and affection go a long way when training hearing-ear dogs. Shaddow was trained to respond to one person, Linda Barker, although she does help the rest of the family.

Orange leash

She follows her at all times and in public is led on a bright orange leash. Jacqueline Harbour hopes the leash will become a symbol for hearing-ear dogs, like a guide dog's harness, to alert the public that the owner is deaf. Mrs. Harbour has just placed Shaddow with the Barkers and is living with them through the first week to help with the adjustment. She says it costs about \$2 000 to train each dog, although she charges the family only \$150 to place the animal.

(Article from The Toronto Star.)



It does not worry Linda Barker that she cannot hear the phone ring or her children crying because her "hearing-ear dog" does the listening for her. Shaddow is one of several trained by a kennel owner in Ancaster, Ontario to help the deaf.