

**1. What is the name of the proposed milestone?**

FIRST TELEVISION BROADCAST IN WESTERN CANADA

ON 16 DECEMBER 1953, THE FIRST TELEVISION BROADCAST IN WESTERN CANADA WAS TRANSMITTED FROM THIS SITE BY THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION'S CBUT CHANNEL 2. THE ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE GAINED HERE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE SUBSEQUENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OVER 1000 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TELEVISION BROADCASTING SITES THAT SERVE WESTERN CANADA TODAY.

**2. What is the location of the proposed milestone?**

CBC Broadcasting Site, Mount Seymour, North Vancouver, BC

**3. In what IEEE section does it reside?**

Vancouver

**4. In What Year or Years was the work performed?**

The CBC Broadcasting Site on Mount Seymour began operations on 16 December 1953. The facility has operated continuously, and has expanded several times, since then.

**5. What is the historical significance of the work (its technological, scientific, or social importance)?**

The CBC Broadcasting Site on Mount Seymour was both the first television broadcast transmitter in Western Canada and the first high elevation/ mountain top broadcasting site in Canada.

(Western Canada refers to the four provinces west of the Great Lakes: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. They are physically separated from Central Canada by the Great Lakes and the relatively inhospitable Canadian Shield.)

The experience gained at the Mount Seymour site contributed to the principles and practices that guided the engineers who went on to design and oversee the over 1000 public and private television broadcasting sites that serve Western Canada today.

References:

- a. Recollections of Dave Newbury, Senior Manager – West, CBC Transmission, Vancouver. (Dave has been a CBC employee for 40 years and knew many of the engineers and technicians who worked at the CBC Broadcast Site when it began operation.)
- b. Photograph collection of Dave Newbury, Senior Manager – West, CBC Transmission, Vancouver.
- c. Canadian Communications Foundation (Official site) at <http://www.broadcasting-history.ca>
- d. "CBC Chief in City", 15 December 1953. Television Transmitter, Mount Seymour Docket 1, Vancouver City Archives.
- e. Broadcasting in Canada: History and Development of the National System, CBC, 1962, 92 pp.
- f. A Brief History of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CBC, 1976, 40 pp.
- g. Anne Kloppenborg, Ed., Vancouver's first century : a city album 1860-1960, Vancouver : J.J. Douglas, 1977.

**6. What features set this work apart from similar achievements?**

Although many other television broadcasting sites were established in Western Canada during the 1950's, CBUT was the first. As a result, CBUT provided an important training ground for the engineers who went on to deploy later television broadcasting sites.

The CBUT broadcasting site on Mount Seymour was the first high elevation/ mountain top broadcasting site in Canada. Although VHF broadcasting sites had been established in Western Canada earlier, their transmitting sites were generally located atop tall buildings in urban areas, e.g., VE9FG (later CBU-FM), a 1-kW FM broadcast station that became operational on 21 November 1947 and which was located at the Hotel Vancouver. The three television broadcasting sites that had been established in Canada previously (in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa) were also installed at relatively low elevations.

**7. What obstacles (technical, political, geographic) needed to be overcome?**

Only three television broadcast stations had been established in Canada prior to CBUT in Vancouver; all were located in Eastern Canada and all were installed at relatively low elevations. For the CBC managers of the day, establishing the network's fourth television transmitter so far West and at a high elevation was a bold and significant decision.

The relatively complicated topography of the Lower Mainland of British Columbia required that considerable care be taken to choose a broadcasting site that would provide the best coverage. Predicting and evaluating the coverage of a VHF broadcast transmitter in mountainous terrain is much different from the corresponding task for the MF broadcast transmitters that had been widely installed at low-level locations in the Lower Mainland during the 1930's and 1940's.

The quality of the initial site selection and engineering is underscored by the longevity of the CBC Broadcasting Site on Mount Seymour and the large number of other television and FM broadcast transmitters that are installed in the same general area today.

**8. Describe fully the intended site(s) of the milestone plaque(s). The intended site(s) must be publicly-accessible, secure, and have a direct connection with the achievement (e.g. where developed, invented, tested, demonstrated, installed, or operated, etc.).**

The plaque will be installed near the main gate of the CBC Broadcasting Site on Mount Seymour.

**9. Please give the address(es) of the plaque site(s) (GPS coordinates if you have them).**

CBC Broadcasting Site, Mount Seymour Parkway, North Vancouver, BC.

Lat: 49°21'13"N Lon: 122°57'24"W

The plaque will be installed on a wall near the main gate. CBC conducts frequent tours for students and the public. All tours include a stop at this location.

**10. Are the original buildings extant?**

Although the original transmitter building burned to the ground a number of years ago and what is there now has been rebuilt, parts of the kitchen area and the original garage are still there and the original stone work from the old building are still apparent.

**11. How is the site protected/secured, and in what ways is it accessible to the public?**

The site is located on the Mount Seymour Parkway, a road which leads to the popular Mount Seymour ski resort, and is easily accessible. The broadcasting antennas and transmitter site are easily visible from the roadway and the main gate. CBC conducts frequent public tours for students and the public.

**12. Who is the present owner of the site(s)?**

The site is owned by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Mount Seymour Provincial Park comprises much of the surrounding land.

**13. Has the owner of the site agreed to have it designated as an Electrical Engineering Milestone?\***

Yes.

**14. Please specify the IEEE Organizational Unit(s) which have agreed to sponsor the Milestone nomination.**

IEEE Vancouver Section