

BROADCASTING: 100 YEARS OF HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY

We are surrounded by radio waves: in the car, with our computers or our smart phones, our GPS or even our microwave ovens.

The first experiments with these so-called "radio frequency" waves by Heinrich Hertz date back to the end of the 19th century. A few years later, Italian physicist Guglielmo Marconi produced wireless telegraphic transmissions capable of crossing the Atlantic. During the same period, the Canadian Reginald Fessenden experimented with the transmission of voice and music. With all the contributions of the researchers and inventors of the time, the civil commercial radio was born in 1919. In Canada, the radio station XWA, created 100 years ago in Montreal, was the first to broadcast experimental programs.

It's the snowball effect: with its entry into the domestic sphere, radio is profoundly changing homes. At the same time recreational, cultural and informative, it punctuates the activities of daily life. It then represents a real social revolution.

In 100 years, the use of radio waves has diversified; first used for wireless telephony, they are then used by traditional radio stations, then by television and even the Internet. Beyond their usefulness in homes, they allow maritime, land, aeronautical and space communications at short and long distance. They are also used in the medical field (magnetic resonance imaging) or for the characterization of materials.

From the first signals in Morse code to advanced technologies, this exhibition traces the history of the first 100 years of broadcasting in Canada.