

Independent channel gets transmitter

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ST. ANDREWS - The transmitter has arrived for St. Andrews' independent community channel CHCT-TV, and they are now waiting for the antennae then they can get their installation crew together, says technical director Brian Dickson.

The St. Andrews community channel has been operating its television service through cable for 14 years and will now expand to become the province's first over-the-air independent community TV station.

Dickson said he will be getting some friends together who have technical expertise to do the installation. The antenna are on their way, he said, and once they arrive they will start work. "We have to set it up and contact

Industry Canada and then will be given a two week testing period, all the time being in touch with Industry Canada, and we have to give them a date when we plan to launch.

"We can't really put a date on it yet." Getting the transmitter brings them one step closer to operating an independent community channel, said Dickson, and they are hoping that once advertising and bingo take off they will be self-sufficient. A gala reception is planned for Sept 23 as a membership drive and to help raise funds for the transmitter.

This will include a dinner with two seatings and they are hoping to have door prizes as well as a silent auction. It will also be an opportunity

for the public to see their studio facilities at the W.C. O'Neill Arena. With the added transmission power, the goal of CHCT-TV is to provide programming to a wider audience in St. Andrews and the surrounding area.

The community channel is a nonprofit organization made up of volunteers from the St. Andrews area and their mandate is to provide local programming that reflects the town's people, their issues and interests.

Their goal is to raise \$16,000 for the necessary equipment and plans are to hold fund raising drives and events such as the gala reception.