Tony Di Rienzo

Tony moved his equipment cabinet away from the wall to show us his cabling. He can connect up to six receivers on his antennas. A 4DTV receiver functions as a central power supply for the LNBs and also acts as the positioner for the actuator motor. All additional receivers are connected as slaves via a splitter or DiSEqC switch.

Tony Di Rienzo in his backyard standing next to his 3-meter dish. In front of him is one of his 120cm antennas with Stab motor.

Tony Di Rienzo should be a familiar name with TELE-satellite readers. In the 03/2006 issue, TELE-satellite reported on his C-band reception experiments using a small dish. That report created quite a stir on the satellite scene. We wanted to know what Tony was up to so

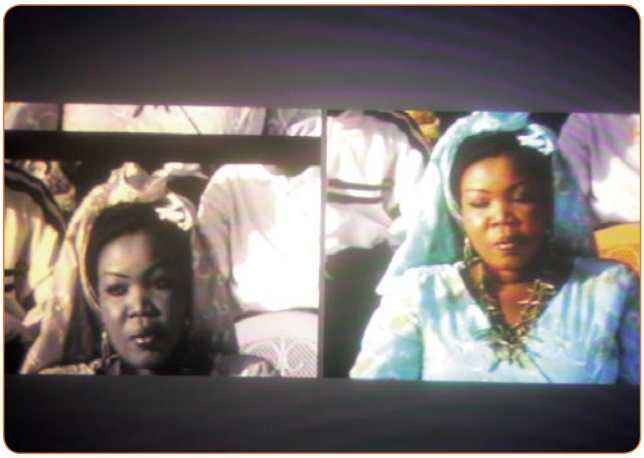
we paid him a visit at his house in a suburb of Toronto.

Tony came to Canada from Abruzzo, Italy back in 1968. He is a construction installer by trade and this gave him the urge to start building. His satellite hobby really began when he was at a friend's house that had a big dish. "I really liked all the sports feeds that I couldn't get on regular tv", Tony recalls. He found out that there were satellite feeds that allowed him to watch all kinds of sporting events. He shelled out CAD $3700 and had a 3-meter dish erected in his yard back in 1988. What's so surprising: "That is still the same dish over there in the yard!" It still stands and receives feeds just like it did back then.

Even the actuator is almost the original; he upgraded from a VonWeise 18" actuator to a 24" actuator of the same brand name. The larger actuator gave him a turning radius from 20° west to 137° west: "This lets me receive 52 satellites", explains Tony proudly. He also has two additional 120cm antennas installed, one in his yard and another on his roof, and both of which run on Stab HH120 motors. With these he receives his favorite satellites Telstar 12 at 15° west and Atlantic Bird at 12.5° west.

Tony, who is married with three kids, is a real-life tester with Fortec Star. New receivers are tested by him in real-life situations so that flaws can be identified early. "Every function in the software must be checked from scratch anytime there is an update", explains Tony who enjoys this work. He is looking forward to testing the upcoming HD prototype from FortecStar.

Tony performs blind scans using a prototype of the Fortec Star Lifetime Classic with CI; he uses the receiver to the right for his regular channels.



Tony can test two receivers by splitting the video inputs of his Sony TV. In this example he shows us a PAL signal from the Quali HD receiver in the image to the left. The image to the right shows the same channel from a Fortec Star receiver using an LNB splitter. This allows him to confirm whether or not PAL signals are correctly converted into NTSC.