

chsr fm

CHSR begins Fundraiser

Campus/Community Radio station CHSR FM is going to the public for financial support. Their annual public fundraising drive will take place this fall between October 20th and the 29th.

"Every year we have fewer real dollars to do what needs to be done" says Station Manager Jeff Whipple. "Most of the funding comes from the students on campus, but we're hoping that members of the community will once again show their support."

Starting on Friday, 20th, CHSR FM will be asking listeners to dial a special pledge line and donate to the station. The lines will stay open from 8:00 a.m. until midnight for the next ten days. The station will be offering gifts and prizes for those who pledge their support.

"We've got keychains, coffee mugs, records and lots of other things to give away," says Program Manager Steve Staples. "All we need is for the listeners to donate a few dollars". Many of these prizes are donated by the local business community.

The station broadcasts 143

hours per week from studios on the third floor of the Student Union Building, using the volunteer efforts of over 100 members. Finding volunteer staff usually isn't a big problem. . . but money is. It costs over \$100 000 a year to run the station and unlike commercial stations they can't rely on advertising to pay the bills.

Much of the equipment is old. Some of it very old. Many of the programmers are using tape recorders and mixing consoles older than they are.

Whipple says things are so bad that worn-out records can't be replaced, and various pieces

of equipment lie around waiting for repairs the station can't afford. And without the help of listeners things are only going to get worse.

"Some of our most important equipment is really beginning to show it's age. The main operating console which produces the signal that listeners hear is almost 25 years old. It affects our signal quality and should have been replaced a long time ago."

The station had been planning to replace the board next summer but Whipple says they have only raised about half the necessary \$40 000 to complete the job. Without a

successful fundraising drive that project may have to be shelved, leaving the station with a board that needs constant maintenance just to keep it on the air.

"We are searching for ways to bring in more money," says Whipple. "The public fundraising drive has worked reasonably well for us before, and has been extremely effective in other cities with campus/community stations."

"Listeners in Fredericton and Oromocto have been very supportive over the years and they seem to like what we have to offer. We're counting on them to dial and donate."

History of CHSR

It all began almost 29 years ago in the basement of Memorial Hall. . . .

CHSR FM started out as little more than a mass of wires running to Jones House where small speakers in every room carried the first "broadcast" of Radio UNB. CHSR has grown over the years into a major musical force in the city, broadcasting alternative sounds 143 hours a week.

1960 was the year. Science student Barry Yoell had returned from a conference in Toronto with an idea: he would start a student radio station at UNB. What followed were months of preparation by a group of students, led by Yoell.

The groups hard work paid off. At precisely 6:15 p.m. on January 22, 1961 "Radio UNB" went on the air.

The station continued closed

circuit broadcasts from Memorial Hall, and expended the service into more of the residences as years went by.

A major technical coup of the time was the introduction of Radio UNB to the Maggie Jean residence downtown.

Radio UNB's next move was to become CHSR 700, broadcasting as a carrier current AM station. Transmitters in various locations used the electrical wiring of residences as the antenna system, allowing for a limited range AM signal on campus. Listeners could even pick it up on Windsor Street if the wind was right!

CHSR staff watched anxiously as the new Student Union Building went up. In 1971 CHSR moved to it's new

home in the SUB. The station continued to expand.

But a new idea was taking hold: FM broadcasting.

In the late seventies a group of CHSR staff decided it was time to take CHSR into every home in the city. In a referendum held in the spring of 1979, 78 percent of students voted to support CHSR FM. The funding for the changeover was secured, and a low power FM licence application was prepared for the CRTC. It was a two year project that stretched from the referendum to the first citywide broadcast of CHSR FM.

In the fall of 1980, CHSR got the word - the licence had been granted. Volunteers worked long hours to get ready for the transition. New

equipment was installed, a broadcast tower was erected on the roof on Magee House and programming was expanded and fine tuned. All of this was accomplished in just eleven weeks!

On January 22, 1981 at 6:15 p.m., CHSR FM went on the air - twenty years after the first broadcast of Radio UNB.

Since 1981 CHSR FM staff have continued to work hard to improve programming for listeners.

In the past 29 years, more than 1500 people have volunteered their time to the station. Many of them have gone on to work professionally in the media. Notable station Alumni include Peter Downie, host of CBC TV's "Man Alive", CFNB Operations

Manager Dave Morell, CKHJ FM Program Director Tom Blizzard, former CBC Network Producer and now UNB Director of Public Relations Armand Paul, and many others too numerous to mention.

CHSR FM has many ideas for the future. The installation of new equipment in to stations Master Control Room is at the top of the list. Programming ideas are continually being hatched and developed, and the station is rife with energy and creativity.

With a solid base of almost one hundred volunteers, the station continues to provide a valuable and exciting service to the community.

Wednesday Night Movies

This week's feature

Tequila Sunrise

Wednesday, Oct. 25

Showtimes 7:00 and 9:30

MacLaggan 105

Admission \$1

presented by the

UNB Student Union

and



MEL GIBSON



MICHELLE PFEIFFER



KURT RUSSELL



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