

It all began twenty-seven years ago. . .

It all began 27 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 138 hours a week.

1961 was the year. Science student Barry Yoell had returned from a campus radio 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 group's hard work paid off. At precisely 6:15pm on January 22, 1961 Radio UNB went on-the-air.

The station continued closed circuit broadcasts from Memorial Hall, and expanded the service into more of the residences as the 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 AC wiring of residences as an antenna system, allowing for a limited range AM signal on the campus. Listeners could pick it up on Windsor Street if the wind was blowing in the right direction.

CHSR staff watched anxiously as the new Student Union Building went up. In 1971 CHSR moved into its 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



Bruce Ward, 1963



Kathy Miller, 1988

Photo: Dave McCuskey

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 submission to 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 of Magee House and programming was expanded and fine-tuned. All of this was accomplished in just eleven weeks!

On January 24, 1981 at 6:15pm, CHSR-FM went on-the-air - twenty years after the first broadcast of Radio UNB.

Since 1981 CHSR-FM staffers have continued to work

hard to improve programming for listeners.

CHSR-FM has many ideas for the future. The installation of new equipment in the station's 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 close to one hundred volunteers, the station continues to provide a valuable and exciting service to the community.

Live from F'ton Mall

CHSR-FM is making a special effort to get out and meet the public during the fund-raiser. The station will broadcast live from the Fredericton Mall from 1 to 5 P.M., Monday through Friday, February 1st through 5th.

Broadcasting from the Mall is fairly expensive, according to the station's program director Ray Violette.

"We had to order a special telephone circuit from the Mall to CHSR-FM. It'll cost us close to a

thousand dollars. We've asked NB Tel if they'd consider waiving the charge as their contribution to the fund-raiser, and we're keeping our fingers crossed. But even if

we have to pay the full cost, it'll be worth it. It's a way for the people who work at the station to get to know our listeners better, and for them to get to know us."

Gone on to fame

CHSR-FM has been around in one form or another since 1961. In the past 27 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 Television's national program *Midday* (unfortunately not available in New Brunswick), CFNB Program Director Dave Morell, and the Associate Producer of CBC Radio's *Quirks and Quarks*, Penny Park.

