



Date: April 12, 2021

Re: Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination

To the NCRA Community Radio Awards Committee,

On behalf of our staff, board and membership, it is my honour to nominate Ian McDiarmid of CFRU 93.3 FM for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Ian's dedication to, and stewardship of, CFRU spans the entire five decades of our station's existence. He began as a member of the Radio Club at the University of Guelph in the early 1970s, and was so instrumental in the move towards gaining our FM licence, that his voice was the first heard on our inaugural FM broadcast, January 28, 1980, as documented in the following archive:

[Opening Ceremony January 28, 2021](#)

Ian has lived the history of CFRU, and in many ways has maintained our legacy from the beginning. Throughout these five decades, he has been a guiding voice in ensuring the development of the station's technology and programming content as resources for both students and the wider community, with tireless dedication. He worked as Operations Coordinator and Station Manager early on, served on the Board of Directors for many years, and has collaborated with staff and volunteers right up to the present day. He has hosted his own programming and assisted hundreds of other volunteer hosts with fill-ins and support over the years. Every year for well-over a decade, Ian has offered a \$1000 scholarship, matched by the University of Guelph, to a student station volunteer who goes above and beyond in their involvement. As you can imagine, this has had a very positive impact in the lives of many students in a time when the costs of student life are increasingly challenging. He shows up at campus and alumni events every year to offer historical tours of the station and connect further with current and former students.

Though the historical involvement outlined above would qualify him for Volunteer of the Century in our books, in recent years, Ian has stepped up his support of the station even further. When our previous Station Manager resigned amidst the Student Choice Initiative debacle, Ian volunteered to take on all interim administrative duties without compensation, having recently retired from a career in finance and accounting, to ensure we maintained our fiscal responsibilities and license requirements. With the financial uncertainty brought on by the SCI and the COVID-19 pandemic, Ian has carried on in this role for nineteen months,

allowing the board and staff to develop a new, adaptive and more sustainable organizational structure that will benefit the station for years to come, and saving the station tens of thousands of dollars in that nineteen month period alone.

CFRU recently celebrated 40+ years on the FM Dial with a multimedia exhibit at the Guelph Civic Museum (available virtually [here](#)). Having worked on collecting materials for the project, the breadth of Ian's generosity and commitment to our station over the years became even more apparent to me. He was our go-to person for historical fact-checking, details and contacts from the early years, and donated loads of important archival materials to the project, including the only known suede CFRU jacket in existence! We could not have come up with such an extensive tribute to our station's history in this community without him.

I am confident that our membership would agree that no one comes as close to mirroring the complete arc of this organization as Ian does. As then Provost Paul Gilmore stated in the inaugural FM broadcast, "How can one think of today's opening ceremony, or CFRU, and not at the same time, and almost synonymously, think of Ian McDiarmid." For breadth, duration and generosity of service over five decades of CFRU's history, we believe that Ian is a prime candidate for the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2021. As he wraps up his recent above-and-beyond volunteer administrative role, we would love to be able to present him with this award to show our appreciation for all he has done.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bryan Webb
He/Him
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