**Chris Clarke Bio**

Born in Ottawa, Ontario in 1964 (the last of the Boomer years), Chris moved to North Bay, Ontario in early 1989. Chris worked at the North Bay Psychiatric Hospital, Northeast Mental Health Centre, and the North Bay Regional Health Centre as an Environmental Services worker and as a supervisor until 2019. Chris then made the jump to Nipissing University where he works as a Lead Hand, Facilities Caretaker. Chris works to live, but his life is music. Being a percussionist in one of many bands or musical projects is where Chris finds his *joie de vivre.*

Chris discovered his passion for music at the age 10 when he picked up a pair of drum sticks for the first time and started beating on everything around the house, much to the delight of his mother. Chris was a self-taught drummer until the early 2000s when he met drummer/educator Tim Clarke (no relation) at Brava Music Studios. It was then that a musical friendship was born. Formal drum lessons began and learning to read drum/percussion music laid the foundation for his musical journey. He was invited by Heather Gardner to play drums for Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre’s (DFT) production of Charlotte’s Web in May 2002. This was the start of Chris’ musical adventures with DFT. Chris has participated as a pit percussionist in approximately 20 DFT productions. He even tried his hand at acting in a couple of productions (Oklahoma, 2002, and Music Man, 2003. Chris is grateful for these on-stage experiences, but he prefers to be heard and not seen. The pit is his comfort zone.

Chris joined the CFB North Bay 22 Wing Band in early 2006, The North Bay Community JOY Band in 2009 – (JOY stands for Just Older Youth). Chris was in a Neil Young tribute band called Heart of Gold for about four years. He also has had the good fortune to play for TOROS (Theatre Outreach On Stage), Mustard Seed Productions, Dressing Room Collective, The Rapport Singers, The Near North Singers, The North Bay Chorale Society, Five – The Dionnes, The Gord Hamden Jazz Quartet and The North Bay Symphony Orchestra.

Chris continues to play with the 22 Wing Band, JOY Band, The Trinity United Church Choir, The Hosts (a band based out of Trinity United Church) and a new band in development called SASS (a twelve piece combo that plays songs from Chicago, Joni Mitchell and The Lincolns to name a few).

Chris is dreaming of the day he can retire and dedicate his time fully to music. Until then, his spare time is filled with many stage and band productions. As busy as he is, Chris was happy to accept Stan’s invitation to participate in recording his song, Being a Boomer Ain’t Bad; especially knowing that the proceeds were going to One Kids Place and the Alzheimer Society.