**Neil Kennedy – BIO**

Neil was born in Windsor, Ontario, studying clarinet at an early age. In 1972 he began music studies at the University of Western Ontario and Althouse College, earning an Honours degree in Music Education. From there he moved to North Bay in 1977, beginning his 31-year music teaching career with the Nipissing Catholic District Separate School Board, 29 years of which were spent at Scollard Hall and then St. Joseph-Scollard Hall. Neil was recognized three times for teaching excellence by his peers and administration. Neil has always been an advocate for school music programs.

In 1977 Neil was a charter member of the wind section of the North Bay Symphony Orchestra, spending 40 years as principal clarinetist and occasional rehearsal conductor. He currently plays in the 22 Wing Concert Band which he joined in 1991 and the Nipissing University Eddy Concert Band. Neil acted as assistant conductor/player for the J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) Community Concert Band from 2009 – 2017. Neil played in many pit bands for musical productions presented by local theatre groups including Bear Stage, T.O.R.O.S., Summer Challenge and Dreamcoat Theatre.

Throughout Neil’s time in North Bay he has played sax and clarinet in several local combo and big bands including the Continentals, Nightshift, Manhattan, and Twilight; and continues to do so. Neil is the leader of the “RESTORATION JAZZ BAND”, an 8-piece group that performs jazz standards, swing, Latin and New Orleans jazz.

On June 17, 2013, Neil was inducted into the North Bay and Area Musicians and Entertainers Hall of Recognition.

Neil states, “It is with pleasure that I have participated in the production of Stan’s song “Being a Boomer Ain’t Bad” and wish him every success in the fundraising he hopes to achieve through its distribution.”