**Stan French Bio**

Stan French, from North Bay, Ontario, has had a long and successful career; but not as a musician. Performing and writing music has always been a passion but it was never his profession... until now, in his 70's! For 30 years Stan was a registered nurse specializing in mental health therapy. He worked full time in a civilian hospital and part time in the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves. As a nurse therapist, Capt French served a tour in Afghanistan. He has continued to serve others by volunteering as the president and chief pilot for BAYSAR Air Search and Rescue in North Bay. Under his leadership, BAYSAR has become a highly successful Project Lifesaver agency working with the North Bay Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police to help keep vulnerable people safe. Now, Stan is continuing his public safety service through his musical fundraising venture.

Stan started learning to write music in high school (Earl Haig S.S, Toronto) in 1972. He neither had the time nor the desire (or the talent) to expand past performing at pubs or parties during his university and college years. Once he moved to North Bay he started getting back into performing as a trombonist in the North Bay Concert Band and a swing 'big band' called The Continentals. He was a charter member of the 22 Wing Band in 1989. While being a volunteer band musician he returned to working on a concert march that he first started writing in 1973. In the old fashioned way, with pencil and staff paper, he used his spare time to refine his concert march. A demo was recorded by the Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces and with that demo, his march 'UNITY' was accepted and performed in 1998 at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto as part of a Massed Military Band Spectacular. Stan described being introduced as the composer in such a storied concert hall as a thrill of a lifetime. It also led to SOCAN membership and sales of UNITY as sheet music.

Stan's military commitments following 9/11 and full time employment meant he had insufficient time to devote to music until his 2013 hospital retirement. Then he started playing trombone again in the North Bay J.O.Y. Band. The isolation of Covid presented the opportunity to return to writing music so he learned computer based music writing programs. Then, in November of 2023, he got the inspiration for writing Being a Boomer Ain't Bad. Since he didn't need a new career in his 70's, Stan decided that a good song should not go unheard. Unable to find a good singer, Stan agreed to become ***“the******recording artist with the minimum talent allowed by law”.*** He rallied local musicians and volunteers to produce the song for charity with proceeds aimed at helping One Kids Place and the Alzheimer Society. Canadore College agreed to help with the recording and Mayor Chirico of North Bay added his support; making this a true community project.