

LOCAL TALENT DEVELOPMENT Nomination:

NITE OUT with Mike Burns and Tara Donaghey

Background:

In March of 2010, local Stouffville artist Mike Burns approached Whistle Radio to solicit assistance in regard to an upcoming event to raise funds for disaster relief in Haiti. Burns and fellow musicians Pierre Bordeleau, Andrew Heathcote and John McGouran joined together to host a “marathon open jam /open stage’ to help raise funds.

WhiStle Radio immediately stepped up to the plate and program director at the time and show producer Tara Donaghey not only helped the quartet produce a number of PSA’s she produced a half hour feature of the four musicians performing in the radio station’s studio. The half hour special was broadcast several times over the next few weeks to help garner interest in the event.



With the help of WhiStle Radio, the event raised over \$4,000.00 for disaster relief in Haiti. The money was donated directly to the Canadian Red Cross. The event itself showcased over 25 local performers as each got their turn to get up and strut their stuff on stage in front of a packed house.

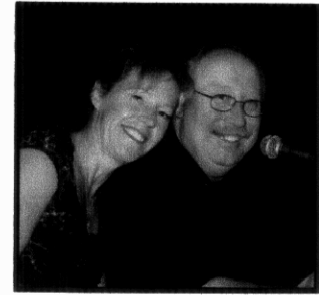
As a result of this introduction, each of the performers were invited to appear live at various times on Tara Donaghey’s weekly Friday broadcast “Weekend Warm-up” , a program that leads into the weekend and was a variety type talk show.

In August of 2010, Mike Burns again approached WhiStle Radio with the idea for a radio show. The show would be a short entertainment magazine that would alert listeners as to what was going on in and around town. What artists or bands were playing where and even talk about the local eateries and things folks would like to know if they were considering a night out. The first working title of the show was “DATE NIGHT” and then settled into its weekly presentation as “NITE OUT”. The show started as a half-hour broadcast hosted by Mike Burns and produced by Tara Donaghey.

Very quickly the idea was developed to invite in local musical artists that were performing locally within the coming period and help them promote their show or anything else. Each week the visiting artist was provided an opportunity to perform as well as being interviewed by Mike and Tara.

As the show moved into October, more and more artists were asking to be part of the NITE OUT program and in an effort to give the artists a better opportunity to show-case their talent – the show expanded to a one hour format.

In June of 2011, the show received sponsorship from a local business/restaurant that wanted the NITE OUT show to broadcast live from their roof-top patio every week (over the summer) in front of the restaurant's patrons. At that time the show became known as **NITE OUT with Mike Burns and Tara Donaghey** and expanded to a two hour format each Thursday night from 7:30 to 9:30 at the Cornerhouse on Main restaurant in Stouffville.



As before, the show featured performances by local artists each week and helped artists promote their upcoming shows or CD releases or other events in which they were involved.

Nomination Details:

- Over the past year and a half the NITE OUT show has featured performances by musical artists every week. Each week the artist participates in the show and promotes their CD or upcoming performance.
- In the past year, there have been over fifty featured artists appear on the NITEOUT program
- Since June of 2011, because the format of the show is two hours, the artist gets to perform about 10 to 12 songs.
- Although the show hosts are volunteers, the agreement negotiated by the hosts has the show's sponsor pay the artists a nominal fee for their appearance.
- Each week, the NITE OUT show features a Weekly Calendar that informs the community about who else is playing in and around town. Because the show has become friends with so many artists, the show hosts expand the geographical area it covers in the calendar if a friend of the show is playing out of town.
- WhiStle Radio has also forged partnerships with many other local ventures. Two of which are Stouffville.com (a local web based tourism and information site dedicated to the Town of Whitchurch Stouffville) and the Stouffville Free Press (a local independent news agency). In combination with these three links, NITE OUT publishes a weekly calendar on events. The calendar is provided in both a written format and an audio link that reviews upcoming events (available in the "entertainment " drop down menu at www.whistleradio.ca)
- Each appearing artist that has provided a CD of their material has had their material placed in the music rotation with the station.
- NITE OUT has arranged with two other local merchants that have electronic billboards at the front of their premises to advertise the name of which artist is appearing each week on the show
- Appearing on NITE OUT has resulted in many of the artists securing additional gigs and significant interest in relation to other performance opportunities.

Other Benefits:

As the hosts of NITE OUT have continued to grow its group of performing friends, and the successes experienced by those friends become known, a number of higher profile artists have offered their services to appear on the show. Although they are not local necessarily – their appearances increase listener-ship and thus have provided a bigger platform for our local talent pool.

Recent high profile artists to appear on our show;

- Canadian country recording artist Marshall Dane (Featured artist in the New Artist Showcase at the Canadian Country Music Award in 2011.)
- Canadian country music artist and local artist – Leah Daniels (was also a featured artist on the New Artist Showcase for the 2010 CCMA's)
- Founder and front man with Coney Hatch, toured extensively with the Guess Who and April Wine – Carl Dixon
- World renowned classical guitarist and Professor of Music at York University – William Beauvais
- Interview with Canadian Actor/Comedian Bernard Robichaud (aka Cyrus from the Trailer Park Boys)

Upcoming Performances;

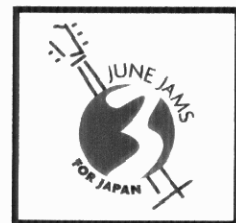
- Multi Juno award winning, Canadian Blues legend: Jack deKayser
- Canadian country recording artist and local talent – Lindsay Broughton

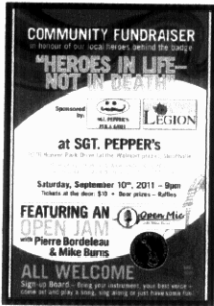
In addition, as indicated previously, as a direct result of their appearance on NITE OUT many of our performers have acquired a number of local gigs and special events.



- Singer / song-writer Stouffville's own Morgan Sadler has been invited to be the opening act for a number of local events and is the opener for the Town of Whitchurch Stouffville's annual Strawberry Festival.
- Local duo of just out of high school buddies, KennedyClarke have acquired several gigs including being invited to perform at the B-Strong Foundation charity event in April.
- Singer / songwriter Carys Montgomery has also been invited to the B-Strong event and has been asked to write the music and perform and record a special song in dedication to the foundation.

Further, the hosts of NITE OUT have used the popularity of the show and the lure of performing on the radio to fundraise for charity. The original four performers that got together for Haiti Relief in 2010 joined forces again and raised funds for Tsunami Disaster Relief for Japan in 2011 and hosted three open jam's to help raise money. The last installment of the fundraiser was broadcast live on NITE OUT and over \$1,000.00 was raised.





In July, of 2011, a member of the local police service was tragically killed in the line of duty. Once again, the NITE OUT team, sprung to action and hosted a fundraising open stage to help raise funds for the young officer's surviving children. NITE OUT broadcast live from the "Open Stage night" and 15 local artists performed. The event itself raised over \$4,000.00 for the charity. Once again the artists were thrilled to be able to perform live on the radio and many went on to secure numerous additional gigs as a result.

Conclusion:

Although the content and theme of the NITE OUT show continues to develop – interviews with other local well known people, the continued support of local restaurants and pubs, and fun stuff like trivia; all of these bring added listeners to the show – which helps promote the local talent we showcase each week – and that what it's all about – the local talent.

Thank you for your consideration. But if that wasn't enough to help you make up your minds, please read the following sampling of testimonials forwarded to us by friends of the show and remember....

Have a great NITE OUT

Testimonials:

Hi Tara & Mike, You two are doing a wonderful and creative job at Whistle Radio. With supporting local artists on your show and airing live events, two that I have been involved with. Thankyou and keep rolling along.

Ray Partridge.

To whom it may concern,
This community is blessed to have Mike and Tara at Whistle Radio. I would like thank you both for having me on your program talking about my music it was a lot of fun and hopefully for the listeners, entertaining. It's great to have a community station that interviews the artist and fleshed out who they are and play their songs on the radio. It's very cool to turn on Whistle and hear my music.
Thanks again to you both
Tommy Pullin



Dear Tara and Mike,
Thank you very much for having me on your show. I wanted to let you know how helpful it has been to me as a performer, a craft I am constantly working to improve on. You two are a pleasure to share a microphone with, be it in your studio or your live "on location" shows. Your warm welcoming nature and unique ability to put me at ease has made me feel extremely comfortable and I believe has allowed me to offer my best in sharing a few songs with your listeners.



As a performer, I strive to improve on presenting myself to an audience. Being on your show has allowed me another venue to work on these performance skills. Trying to capture the attention of a radio listener as opposed to someone sitting in front of you is no doubt a different challenge. I have been thrilled with the comments I have received from people that have heard me on your show.

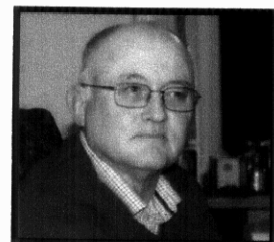
Thank You.
Sincerely,
John Lemme

I would like to commend the Nite Out show on Whistle Radio 102.7 Stouffville.

This show hosts local talent from different venues, interviewing the artist allowing it's listeners to listen to home grown Canadian talent. Each show is different and entertaining and listeners hear new original songs where and who is playing locally.

Nite Out host Mike Burns and Tara Donaghey are very informative on local entertainment events , amusing to listen to and always have an interesting show and guest to listen to.

Nite Out is Stouffville's key source to local listeners for entertainment and where listener's can go to hear local talent play



Best Regards
Harold Hutchings

Hi Tara and Mike,

I just wanted to extend our gratitude in having us out to perform on your show. It was a very special night for us, one that will be remembered for a long time. We hope to be out again as we had SUCH a great time, you both have a great way of making the guest(s) feel ever so comfortable and welcomed.

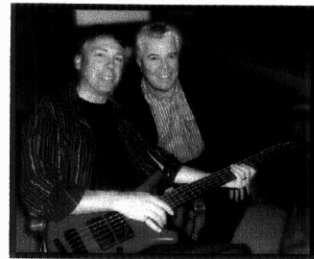


Thank you as well for the CD, it is very much appreciated!

Warm Regards,
Jeannette (and Blake) of Main Street

I am an avid listener to the show "Nite Out" on Thursday evenings, and have had the opportunity to appear on the show (interview and performance) with another band mate.

The show itself is a great way to hear what is going on in the local music scene, promoting local talent and local venues. Local in this case means Stouffville, Newmarket, Aurora etc. This neighbourhood has a surprising number of outstanding musicians and this show gives a boost to them and supports the places that will hire them to play. It is a win-win for musicians and venues, plus a win for the listener of the show.



After our band appeared "unplugged style" on the show our attendance at our next gig increased over the last time and the audience seemed warm from the start.

Mark Thomas, MGB-Rocks!

Mike Burns and Tara Donaghey and their show *Nite Out* are tireless promoters of local and regional talent. They don't just talk about the artists, they feature them performing live in order to promote upcoming gigs and concerts. Mike is also a fine musical performer in his own right so he approaches his guests not just as a fan but as someone who understands what's involved in being a musician.



As Mike's lively partner on air, Tara helps to keep things moving along. Their enthusiasm and good cheer help to communicate to radio listeners that the performers they feature are worth discovering and supporting. And by broadcasting live outdoors in the summer they further encourage local residents to sit up and take notice.

As a local musician, I heartily applaud Mike and Tara and *Nite Out*!

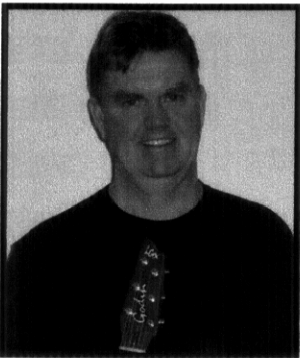
Marie-Lynn Hammond

Mike and Tara are very supportive of my music career. I have been on their show three times now, and they are always happy to hear my original tunes. They promote my upcoming gigs, and do a mini-interview so the audience can get to know me as a person as well as an artist. It is a ton of fun to be on the show.

Best,
Sarah Dylan



Nite Out with Mike Burns and Tara Donaghey has been providing timely updates about our local music scene for over a year now. By tuning in to Stouffville's Whistle Radio on a Thursday evening, local citizens can find out about what musical offerings are available in the immediate area. Additionally, special guests are featured. They are interviewed and given the opportunity to perform on live radio. This serves as promotion for aspiring talent in our local music scene.



Nite Out demonstrates exceptional community involvement by going to the location where musical activities are occurring.

Brian O'Sullivan

Dear Mike and Tara,

Wanted to give a shout out to Nite Out with Mike Burns and Tara Donaghey on CIWS FM 102.7 Whistle Radio in Stouffville Ont. We have listened and participated as the show has developed into a solid resource program showcasing local musical talent and providing the radio audience with an up close and personal listen to the weekly guests. The performance listings for what's "going on" in the local music scene each week are a great help to find out who is performing where in the community. With out listeners there can be no performers.



With out performance opportunities musicians and singers can't develop to their potential. Mike and Tara and Nite Out have become the glue that holds the Stouffville music community together.

Don Maitland
Bassist/Live Sound
The Marion Drexler Band
The Marion Drexler Trio

Nite out with Mike and Tara

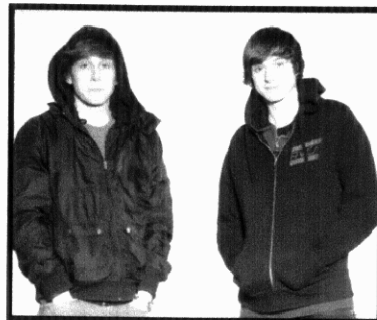
I just wanted to say a few words about the whistle radio program Niteout. I have found the program to be quite entertaining and have been out to the live nite out shows at the Afters Lounge in Stouffville. As a local professional musician I have been enlightened to the many different artists and musicians in the area. I have always known we had some great local talent but the Nite out show has brought them to the forefront for me. Being a musician I am usually out playing while other musicians are playing; So we don't get the chance to see each other. The Nite out show gives us that chance to see some good players and some up and coming players. Sometimes some of the more accomplished players even get the chance to offer a little advice to up and coming budding musicians so it not only offers a great opportunity for players to get out and play but to also listen and learn along the way.



Mike Burns the host has a pretty good sense of humour and generally keeps the show moving along at a pretty good pace. Sometimes a bit long winded but hey who of us isn't at times...lol. That's where the cohost Tara comes in, she is a very friendly upbeat lady and she tends to keep Mike on his toes. Which is a good thing. Looking forward to many more shows and perhaps even being a guest at some point, keep up the good work...cheers..

Jy Fairlie - Guitar/Vocals for
Whatever Sticks Band - Canada
the Mid Life Crisis Band - Canada
Jim Tucke and Backbone - USA

Both Mike Burns & the truly lovely Tara Donaghey have hosted Whistle Radios show "NITE OUT" since the beginning. They kindly gave us "KennedyClarke" a chance to hop on air and show the town what we've got! We were honoured to be considered as most of the local talent in the area like to scoop up the air time they offer! After every show we watch our "likes" go up and our youtube views rise. Having this platform available to KennedyClarke has been a truly invaluable one. These guy's do a great job of keeping the show going, even when we get chatting... and it is KennedyClarke's favourite gig to play! We can't wait to play again this year!



Cheers,
KennedyClarke

Hi Mike and Tara....just wanna say thanks to you guys and Whistle Radio for your support...we moved to Stouffville about 6 years ago and for the last couple of years have been regular listeners to NITE OUT. It's amazing to me the number of great musicians, songwriters and



singers that live in this area...through performing live on The Nite Out Show our little band 'MEMORIES UNPLUGGED.. has been playing regularly in the local clubs..without this support it would have been much more difficult to get the band going.....It gave us a lot more confidence and exposed us to a much larger audience than we would have had otherwise a whole lot quicker...since then we are regular performers at THE LION PUB in Stouffville as well as hosting an OPEN STAGE every sunday at the pub as

well.....I'm sure many musicians feel the same way that I do judging from the number of great performers that I've heard over the past NITE OUT shows...if your intent was to support local talent then I think you have accomplished it in flying colours..keep it going....

Larry Goguen...MEMORIES UNPLUGGED

This is a letter of support for Mike Burns and Tara Donaghey's show *Nite Out*, which airs on the community licensed station CIWS in Stouffville, Ontario. I am the founder of the station but am not actively involved - except as a listener! - at this time.

Nite Out provides musicians with a live-to-air opportunity to talk about themselves, their careers and aspirations, and of course to play their music. The GTA is laden with commercial stations yet air time for these talented but not-top-hit singer-songwriters is rare. *Nite Out* provides this air time.

Tara and Mike develop a friendly, fun rapport with the musicians, and you can see it their (the musicians) lit-up faces. But the show goes a step further in that it is broadcast from a local restaurant. So in addition to bringing the musicians to the community, *Nite Out* brings the community to the musicians. There is always a good crowd watching and listening, and generally supporting local music, local radio and local business. Consequently, to me at least, *Nite Out* is the finest example of supporting local talent.

Sincerely,
Jim Priebe
priebe.jim@gmail.com
356 Glad Park Ave
Stouffville, Ontario
L4A 1E6

"I have had the pleasure of both showcasing on and observing "Nite Out" with Mike Burns and Tara Donaghey on many occasions. As a concept, I think 'Nite Out' is a great way for locals to get to know new local talent and find out about live music happening in the area. As hosts I think Mike and Tara's relaxed demeanour and genuine conversation makes for a fun atmosphere that makes listeners and guests feel as though they are in their own living room with friends listening to great music. I loved being a guest on the show and have been introduced to a great number of local artists through 'Nite Out'. "

Carys Montgomery