


Local music promoter receives the 2016 Diane London Award for work in community

LORI GALLAGHER | Fredericton Daily Gleaner
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Emma Chevarie was awarded the 2016 Diane London Award at River Jam on Friday, July 8. The award is presented annually to a local musician, artist or arts-related woman with a creative spirit and talent, who gives of themselves to the community, and who exemplifies the spirit and character of London.

Photo: Submitted

Emma Chevarie is a familiar face on the local music scene as a volunteer with just about every event in the city.

She shares her love of music through her blog, Music Runs Through It, a great resource for anyone looking for musical entertainment in Fredericton. On top of this, she promotes local talent and brings touring musicians to the city for everything from house concerts to her regular concert series at Corked Wine Bar.

On Friday evening, Chevarie was recognized for all she does for the music community when she was awarded the 2016 Diane London Award during River Jam.

“I’m just so thrilled and honoured. I love working with this stuff. It’s all from my heart,” said Chevarie in an interview Monday afternoon.

This special award is presented each year in honour of Diane London, beloved diva of the Downtown Blues Band, according to a media release. London’s final performance was at River Jam 2004, before losing her battle to cancer.

The award is presented to a local musician, artist or arts-related woman with a creative spirit and talent, who gives of themselves to the community and exemplifies the spirit and character of London, says the release.

Chevarie learned she was the recipient of this year’s award a week prior to River Jam.

“They sent me a message to make sure I was going to be there,” she said. “They said try to keep this secret, but you can tell your family if you want your family there.”

She says she was glad she had the heads up, as she doubts she could have been so collected when accepting the award had she learned of it on the spot.

While she only said hello to London once in passing, she’s heard wonderful stories of the woman the award is named for through a mutual friend.

“I’ve heard so many nice things and I always appreciated the way that they carry on her spirit in that way,” said Chevarie, who never expected to be considered for the award because many of the previous recipients have been musicians.

It turns out she fit other criteria perfectly. She was presented the award plaque and a \$600 cash prize just before the Downtown Blues Band's set during River Jam.

Chevarie has always been a fan of River Jam, as it's all in one night and features all local bands. It has a real sense of community about it, she said.

"The live music experience is something that can't be substituted," she says. "Fredericton has so much to offer. The talent is world class and people want to get out and see it."

The award presentation was just one of the highlights of River Jam 2016. Close to 1,000 people enjoyed the annual summer celebration of music along the St. John River on July 8, with 20 local bands performing on four stages at the Delta Fredericton.

The Diane London Award is permanently housed in the Green Room of The Playhouse. Previous winners include Judy Lavigne (2015), Jennifer Russell (2014), Sylbie Roy (2013), Helen Mòrag McKinnon (2012), Becka DeHaan (2011), Carolyn Holyoke (2010), Krista Touesnard (2009), Cathy Hutchinson (2008), Maureen Steeves (2007), Casey LeBlanc (2006) and Tania Breen (2005).

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