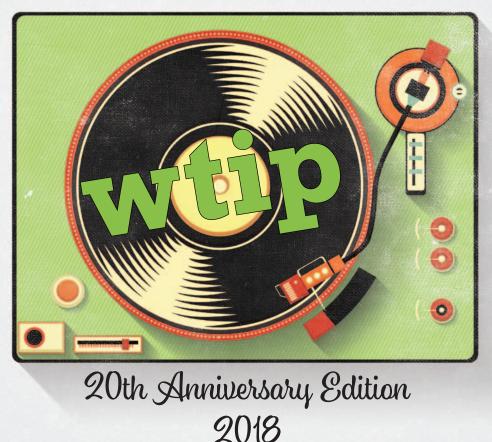
The Story of WTIP





Executive Director Deb Benedict: Honoring 17 Years Of Leadership, from the Ground Up

Deb might be the first person to admit that WTIP has seen a lot of changes over the years. She's been here for most of them, and for 17 years, has led the station through natural disasters, power outages, random expanses of dead air, the addition of news reporters, program directors, music directors, a high-profile change of venue, an annual music festival, and a changing roster of staff, community partners, business underwriters and board members. Under her leadership WTIP has evolved our programming from one hour a day to radio independence. The station now originates all programming locally with the help of 50

volunteers, and listeners tune in from all over the world through WTIP's stream at www.wtip.org. With Deb as executive director, WTIP has become the trusted source for news, information and entertainment for the North Shore, with a staff of ten, two additional broadcasting transmitters, its own building and over 1,200 members.

In 2006, when the Corporation for Public Broadcasting excluded WTIP from federal grant funding, Deb persuaded them to change their guidelines so WTIP could qualify. In 2009, when she was elected board chair of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters, she took Cook County Community radio to the national stage. Working closely with the NFCB and the Ampers network, Deb's representation and dedication kept WTIP plugged-in to the national network of radio stations. Said Joel Glaser, chief executive officer of Ampers, in his retirement message to Deb,

"What you have done with WTIP is absolutely incredible. You harnessed the enthusiasm of the community and created a powerhouse community radio station that is pointed to as an amazing example of community radio not only statewide but nationwide."

So, thank you Deb. For your generous and infectious spirit. And for every time you charged into a studio to ask for "just one more" member to renew. For tending to the flower boxes and laboring over the future of community radio. Perhaps that's the thing we'll miss the most about you. The way you approach leadership like you approach family; with motherly attentiveness, enthusiasm, humor and affection. You have carefully tended WTIP's growth from the ground up; nurturing this tiny radio station like a handful of seeds, and watching it sprout into the thriving community asset that it is today.

Here's to the Radio Diva! We will miss you.





HIT STORY OF WH

Welcome!

This is a wonderful time at WTIP as we celebrate twenty years of broadcasting community radio in Cook County. It is a privilege to bring our community's stories, issues, concerns, events and entertainment to you. We can't thank our listener members enough for the support you have given us in 2017 and over the past twenty years.

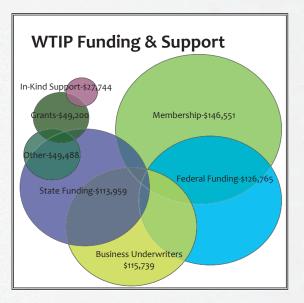
2018 is a year of change, as Deb Benedict, the Radio Diva, is retiring after being executive director for the past seventeen years. She has worked tirelessly to bring high-quality programs to our airwaves, formed an award winning news department and was instrumental in making WTIP the community asset that it is today. Matthew Brown is phasing into the position of director over this spring and summer, and is proud to be leading a radio station that is a vibrant part of this wonderful community.

We are pleased with the transition process and believe responsive leadership will ensure the continuity of great and inclusive programming and services to our listeners.

Whether you listen over the air, or stream us on-line, WTIP is so proud to serve our county, Lake Superior and our region.

OBenedict Matthe Brown





A 501(c)(3) public radio station, WTIP Community Radio welcomes charitable contributions that support its mission and vision. Gifts can be annual sponsorships, memorials, in-kind donations, gifts of stock and planned giving. For more information please contact Staci Drouillard, 218-387-1070 or email staci@wtip.org.

1991-1992

Radio enthusiasts Bill & Joan Burkhardt, Cheryl Champion, Todd Nelson, Peter and Mary Igoe, Roger Bromander, Bud Severeid, Leslie Pederson, Ann Cervenka, Scott Beatty, Micky Schell, Susan Maijala, Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Nathan Kristenson, Elmer Harvey, Bill Hansen, Scott & Gena Sales, Doug Seim, Jeff Nemitz and Mike Raymond meet to brainstorm ways to bring radio to Cook County. The first membership mailing yielded over 200 members and \$10,000.00 in contributions.



Mary Igoe



Peter Igoe

OCT. 1997

Volunteer engineers Jeff Nemitz and Kirk Kersten of KUMD help decide what equipment to purchase and how to best install it, while Bill Burkhardt, Mike Raymond and others attend Ampers meetings and visit other stations, to learn how to create live radio.



Jeff Nemitz



Mike Raymond



Bill Hansen



Early Planning Session 1999



CJ Heithoff & Paul Damberg

APR. 29, 1998

WTIP goes live, broadcasting for one hour each weekday at 200 watts. Later that year, the WTIP transmitter goes full power at 25,000 watts effective radiated power. Early volunteers include Bob Carter, Al Hedstrom, Timothy Young, Randy Eastlund, Paula Sundet Wolf, Mike Carlson and Nancy Persons. Paul Damberg of KUMD offers his expertise & support throughout the early years.



1998 - 1999

Bill Burkhardt & Scott Sales host the very first A.M. Community Calendar. Cathy Quinn, Howard Mackenzie, CJ Heithoff, and Debbie Benedict all get involved in early broadcasting. Dick Powell, Yafa Napadensky, Brian Sherburne, Bill Burkhardt, Buck Benson, Gena Sales and others comprise the first board of directors.

1999

Norman Moe and Dick Dorr team up for the first, live coverage of CCHS Vikings sports.

Tuesday Classics and Dr. Big Ears' Medicine Show debut.

1999 - 2000 2001

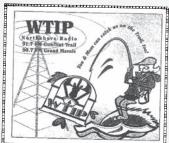
Ragamuffin Radio, the PM Calendar, evening music shows and Small Change are added to the program roster. Doug Seim and Dennis Peterson (with cameos by Scott Sales) bring us the weekly Sports Wrapala.

Mike Raymond's Wednesday Night Jazz is added to the program schedule.



After the 1999 Blowdown, WTIP raises funds to install a translator on the Gunflint Trail. Ann Possis reads the weather on the air for the very first time.

The Roadhouse with Walt Rasmussen, Bob Carter and Buck Benson debuts. "Community radio is so functional in a county as geographically large as ours," said Benson, "it holds us together."



in the second se



Ann Possis



Studio A Vintage



Ragamuffin Radio

Ladies and gentlemen, introducing Rainbow Trout.



Rainbow Trout

2001 - 2002 Sounds of the Spirit

Bruce MacDonald

with BJ Muus.

2002

Remember When, with hosts Bruce MacDonald and Steve Forsberg airs on Friday evenings. That summer, *Swing Session* with Bill Burkhardt makes its debut.

Cameron Norman hosts Women in Music & Billie Foster launches First Nation' s Time.





Roadhouse remote broadcast from Sven & Ole's.



Bill Burkhardt

2003

The spring membership drive sets a goal of \$8,500. "Let's get radioactive," says Deb Benedict.



At The Tip of the Arrowhead (On Top of Old Smokey)

At the tip of the Arrowhead Local radio is sweet We love WTIP Just ask anyone you meet

If you value our programs Small Change, music, pop quiz Call now with your membership Support North Shore show biz

It's so easy to join us We're just a phone call away Click on line or stop by please A new pledge makes our day

When you turn on the radio Tune in 90.7 What a treat for your eardrums You'll think you went to heaven

Now this song's almost over And we won't take a bow As long as you do your part and Become a member right now

FEB. 28, 2004

Carl Solander brings *Classic Country* to Sunday evenings.

SPRING 2004 Molly Hoffman's Bird Songs

of the Northern Woods Vol. 1

(of three) is released.

2004

Summer intern Ada Igoe leads the Youth Radio Project. WTIP broadcasts live from the harbor at the first Dragon Boat Festival.

FALL 2004

A WTIP endowment fund is established at the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.



Carl Solander



Molly Hoffman signs "Bird Songs" CD's on the Harbor.



Ada Igoe



Mark Abrahamson and Dragon



Dragon boats in competition.

NOV. 2006

The AM Community Calendar broadcasts live from Grand Portage Elementary.

Pumpkin carving contest attracts artists of all ages during the fall membership drive.

Father and daughter duo Doug & Dehlia Seim bring *Soul Survivor* to Sunday morning. Sidetracks with Cathy Quinn adds eclectic music programming to each weekday. Northern Gardening with Paula Sundet airs Friday mornings, inviting listeners to call in.





Northern Gardening

2006

WTIP receives funding through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Radio Community Service program. After two years of groundbreaking work by Station Manager Deb Benedict and volunteer Bill Burkhardt, and with help from the National Federation of Community Broadcasters, the coalition of local broadcasters successfully lobbies the CPB to expand grant availability to 11 U.S. community stations.

Music Director's Report from Will Moore

2017 strengthened the ties WTIP had to local and regional musicians more than ever before. With 55 unique interviews and performances on Scenic Route in addition to all the guest performances set up by Ann Possis and Jeff Nemitz on Roadhouse, it's amazing how a small radio station is able to reach and become endeared by great artists as well as dedicated listeners. We were treated to memorable live onair performances by notable artists like Charlie Parr, Jeremy

> Messersmith, Dom Flemons, and The Sea The Sea, as well as a stellar 10th Radio Waves festival featuring an outer-limits homecoming performance from Step Rockets! We extended live music programming to Sidetracks, Saturday music blocks, and other programs, ensuring that our airwaves are packed full of exclusive shows unique to our station. Even after 4 years working at WTIP, I'm constantly surprised and impressed with the level of knowledge and depth our hosts have in their musical tastes and appreciation of each other's shows. Thanks so much to all local musicians for continuing to support this station, and thanks the volunteers for staying interested in new music and broadening your musical horizons!



AM Calendar live from Grand Portage Elementary



Jeremy Messersmith

2006

2007

www.wtip.org adds live streaming capability. It's *Polka Time* with Rainbow Trout!

The Luge!

Melanie Steele, Roger Linehan and Jana Berka all join the WTIP team. That same year, Bob Carter wins Independent Public Radio Broadcaster of the Year award.

WTIP adds 200 online streaming ports during coverage of the Ham Lake Fire.



Jerry Lilja Cousins Webstreaming WTIP



Melanie Steele



The Luge! Bob Carter, Doug Seim, Norman Moe & Dick Dorr



Jana Berka

AUG. 2007

The station receives the DNR Fire Media Award. "The voice of Program Director Kristy Johnson was 'the voice I listened to on the way out of the evacuation,' said a woman displaced by the fire."



Ham Lake Fire (photo by Angie Cook)



Ham Lake Fire news clipping from the

Cook County News-Herald

WTIP purchases the former Wilderness Waters building. "I think this building will help secure WTIP's permanence in the community," said Dehlia Seim, president of the board of directors.

NOV. 2007

WTIP moves operations to 1712 West Highway 61, without interruption of service!

Matthew Brown joins the WTIP staff to host *Sidetracks*. Jay Andersen adds years of journalism experience to the news department and co-hosts *Daybreak* with Roger Linehan.

Frank Hansen shares his first segment of West End News.

Metal Maniacs becomes Rock Revived, with host Brandon Cole.



Frank Hansen





Matthew Brown



News Director's Report from Joe Friedrichs

Rhonda Silence and Joe Friedrichs

It was an exciting year in 2017 for the WTIP News Department! The most recent addition to the news team is Sterling Anderson, who started as a host on the Daybreak program in the summer of 2017. In addition, Sterling is producing features, posting content to the WTIP website and covering the local sports scene. A favorite for many listeners is Sterling's weekly updates from the sports desk, which can be heard every Monday on the North Shore Morning program. Among the programs and features produced by the WTIP News Department is Rhonda Silence's ongoing partnership with the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa reporting on their CACHE Project, which stands for "Community Agriculture through Culture, Health and Education." Rhonda will continue to report on this project in 2018 for WTIP.

In the summer of 2017, longtime WTIP newsman Jay Andersen passed the title of news director to Joe Friedrichs. Jay remains on staff, serving as a senior editor and advisor, while also continuing to host Daybreak five days per week.

Another noteworthy feature WTIP produced in 2017 was the Ham Lake Fire onehour original production that aired in May. The feature was a detailed look back on the events that led up to, and unfolded as the Ham Lake Fire roared up the Gunflint Trail in 2007. The feature was among WTIP's most listened to segments in 2017. And while officially launched in March 2018, the new WTIP Boundary Waters Podcast was created in the summer and fall of 2017. The podcast, in addition to several planned projects covering housing, fishing, climate change and renewable energy on the North Shore and throughout Cook County mean 2018 is going to be a great year for the WTIP News Department!

2008

Radio Waves Music Festival launches during the station's 10th year. "There's something for everyone," said Music Director Cathy Quinn. *The North Shore Swing Band* kicks off the festival.



Radio Waves fan

2009

first time.

WTIP breaks away from

KUMD, broadcasting

independently for the

A Home of Our Own

\$329,000 toward the

\$550,000 goal.

capital campaign raises

JUNE 2009 C

Deb Benedict is selected as Ampers Broadcaster of the

Year.

OCT. 9, 2009

Residents of Grand Portage can now listen at 90.1 FM, when a new transmitter goes live. "It's been a long time coming and I'm very happy that we've finally been able to put this together to serve the Grand Portage village,"said engineer Jeff Nemitz.





Bump Blomberg & Jim Elverhoy



Radio Waves kids



2010

Deb Benedict is elected president of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters board, bringing her community-driven vision and leadership skills to the national organization.

The ground is officially overturned in the WTIP Community Garden.



Garden in Bloom



Jay Andersen and Debbie Benedict

Fingerstyle Master's Weekend at Bluefin Bay becomes an annual workshop.

News Director Barbara Jean Meyers receives AP awards for two stories: Battling Extinction with Furry Critters and Chanel No. 5, and The Blowdown: A 10 Year Remembrance.

Boomer Jam with Tyler Howell airs weekly.



Tyler Howell

2010 - 2011

Nine students form the first Youth Radio Project. "These students are pursuing topics that are of interest to them and they're learning valuable skills," said project coordinator Michael McHugh.



Youth Radio Project



Fingerstyle Master Gordon Thorne



Barbara Jean Meyers wins AP Award

APRIL 2011 2011

receives awards from

the Minnesota Associated Press

MAR. 2, 2012

2013

Ada Igoe wins first place AP award for Of Woods & Words: The Wave. A roster of nine local writers contribute columns to the calendar shows and North Shore Weekend. WTIP brings Vinyl Café to Grand Marais!



These centres of KITP The Vinyl Caffe Winter Tour 2012 will be making a stop in Grand Marais. Host Snart NALLaan will bring the show, with its mix of humorous stores and inver music to the Arrowhead Center for the Arts on March 2.

The Vinyl Café

WTIP receives the Lake Superior Binational Forum Environmental Stewardship Award for The Lake Superior Project. Said Program Director Kelly Schoenfelder, "we are so excited to see the positive impacts of the project and we are so honored to be recognized for being a part of keeping Lake Superior healthy."

JULY, 2013



Doug Seim returns to the airwaves with The Gospel Truth.

WTIP producers receive first place MN AP awards in three categories for Carah Thomas's Behind the Work: Joshua Lindstrom of Fika Coffee, Kelly Schoenfelder's Lake Superior Project and Fred Smith's Wildersmith, September 21.



2017 Report from WTIP Board President Dave Tersteeg

Kelly Schoenfelder and Carah Thomas win first place awards.

A Birthday Message from Board President Dave Tersteeg WTIP has gone platinum, and this is our year to celebrate, honor and reflect. Birthday parties are fun. After the presents are opened, marking ones age always brings a bit of introspection on the passing of

time. Especially considering such a nice, round number of 20. Where did we come from? Where are we going? Twenty years makes me reflect on the How and Why, and What does

the future hold?

How we made it this far includes: visionary founders, excellent leadership, loyal listener members, dedicated volunteers, empowered staff, technological prowess, and sustained financial support. Major attributes indeed, particularly considering our remote location and sparse population. Perhaps local passion sums up the How. Why community radio is thriving is harder to define, yet feels so natural. Great radio is an experience. Turning on WTIP feels like you are inviting friends into your life. Friends who are always up for entertaining, engaging and informing you, no matter the weather or the hour. You trust WTIP to be your friend on the

Fred & Fran Smith

2014

WTIP celebrates 15 years!



15th Year Advertising Campaign, photo by Carah Thomas

Thanks to generous support, WTIP's Home of Our Own campaign reaches its goal.

Matthew Brown moves into the role of program director and Will Moore joins as music director.



2015

AUG. 2015

It's "radio on a stick!" WTIP broadcasts live from the MN State Fair.



Bob Carter with Al Franken at the MN State Fair



airwaves, and we honor this commitment daily. That's a pretty deep Why. Now that we're 20, what about tomorrow? Leadership changes are in motion, and the future looks bright. This past year the board was active in succession planning for that bittersweet day when our Radio Diva will no longer be at the helm (sigh). Three cheers for Deb, and congratulations on your retirement! The opportunity to promote from within and empower Matthew Brown to lead our organization promises smooth sailing ahead. We are also very fortunate to welcome Staci Drouillard and CJ Heithoff to our incredibly talented team of WTIP staff. Things are clicking in-house. As with any living organization, we've had to say aloha to co-workers and friends whose shows have endedall the best to new chapters in their lives. We welcome new volunteers stepping up to the mic and behind the scenes. Fun-drives will always be Fun. Membership is strong. Our roots have grown deep.

As we celebrate the many years of talking and listening together, I'd like to thank you for your trust and friendship. It is an honor to serve you, and a privilege to work with such a talented group of individuals. WTIP is the local sound track of our lives. North Shore Community Radio will always be a friend indeed and a friend indeed. Happy Birthday to all of us!

11-



Will Moore



Tersteeg Perez-Abreu

2016

North Shore News Hour with Joe Friedrichs makes its debut.



Joe Friedrichs

2016

The Clean & Sustainable Waters Project, Lake Superior Project and A Year in the Wilderness, strengthen WTIP's mission to foster environmental awareness and stewardship through our programming.

www.wtip.org introduces a public service announcement link, making it easier than ever for our community to share public service and event announcements.

Journalist and WTIP fan Rhonda Silence joins the news team.



A Year in the Wilderness with Dave and Amy Freeman





John Silliman

The story of WTIP would not exist without the good work of our volunteers, many who have been volunteering their talents from the very beginning. As a community-powered, community-driven station, WTIP continues to welcome new volunteers, both on the air and behind the scenes.

The 2017 Volunteers (*indicates a 20 year commitment to WTIP)

Mark Abrahamson Chel Anderson Eric Anderson Fred Anderson Paulette Anholm Andrew Beavers Ann Belleman Buck Benson* Tracy Benson Vicki Biggs-Anderson* Diane Booth Tom Bradovich Bill and Joan Burkhardt* Pat Campanaro Julie Carlson Mike Carlson* Bob Carter* Tom Christiansen Nancy Daley Tory Danielson Dick Dorr* Pam Dorris Sally Dunn Randy Eastlund* Miles and Rain Elfvin Pat Eliasen Joan Farnam Dean Farnum Steve Forsberg Evan Gates Diane Greeley Don Hammer Bill Hansen* Barb Heideman Molly Hoffman Tyler Howell Marcia Hyatt Mary & Peter Igoe* Holly Johnson Kent Jones Dennis Kaleta (Gus) Pete Kavanaugh Dale and Anna Klobuchar Jeannie Kloster Karen Kobey Tina Krauz Mike Kwaz Cheryl Larsen

APR. 2018

CJ Heithoff, a volunteer since 1998, joins the staff as producer of the AM Community Calendar.



Hyla Napadensky

The WTIP News Department wins the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award for the Joe Friedrichs produced, "Ham Lake Fire" documentary.



Ardie Lien, Sherrie Lindskog and Tyler Howell

Kent Jones & Nick Vavrichek



Fred Smith grilling



2018

WTIP Community Radio

Celebrates 20 years on the air!



Gary Latz Ardie Lien Jerry Lilja Sherrie Lindskog Maxene & Roger Linehan Dave MacLean Susan Maijala* Mary Manning Martha Marnocha Bob Martin Anne McKinsey Marnie McMillan John Mianowski Norman and Printha Moe* John Morrin Deane Morrison

Seth Moore John Moos **BJ Muus** Brian Neil Matt Nesheim Hartley Newell-Acero Beth Olson Bob Padzieski Craig and Dianne Peterson Joni Peterson Ann Possis **Bob** Pranis John Praxmarer Cathy Quinn* Mike Raymond* Kurt Redborg

Mike Reeves Ann Russ Jennifer Schulz David Seaton Doug Seim & Deb White* Clare Shirley John Silliman Fred & Fran Smith Jan Smith Carl Solander Nancy Steinhauser (Sunny) Sarah Stover Ellen Stubbs Dick Swanson Dave Tersteed Gordon Thorne

Greg Tofte Trail Mix Boys Rainbow Trout Doug Turner Nick Vavrichek Chris Waldera Dennis Walldrop Veronica Weadock Larry Weber Cilla Walford Eric Weicht Shawna Willis Laurel Wilson Karie Wrich Tom and Jodi Yuhasey LeAnn Zunker

YOU ARE THE STORY OF WTIP



Sue Maijala & Beth Olson in the Parade



Jessa Frost plays live in the Studio



Jeff Nemitz at Mt. Maud Transmitter



AM Calendar Host Meeting



Parade marchers ask, "are you listening?"



Tom Christiansen & Marcia Hyatt, long time volunteers & WTIP producers.



Cathy Quinn



Timothy Young



Donna Lunke & friend visit during a membership drive



Veronica Weadock gets the scoop



Staci, Deb and Matthew live from the Hjordis



Doug Seim



Sherrie and Donuts



Anna & Dale Klobuchar



Roger Linehan



Julie Carlson & BJ Meyers



Open House April 29, 2011 Debbie with cake



NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY RADIO

90.7 FM North Shore 90.1 FM Grand Portage 89.1 FM Gunflint Trail

1712 W Hwy 61 • PO Box 1005 Grand Marais, MN 55604

> (218) 387-1070 www.wtip.org

Concept by Jana Berka • Compilation by Staci Drouillard Design by Karie Wrich

EST. 1998

ank you

ALOCAL

WTIP Community Radio

Grand Marais, Minnesota www.wtip.org ~ Since 1998 ~