

## **Student Staff Reports - Fall 2022 / Spring 2023**

### Reese Andison – Community Outreach & Programming Assistant

My general job responsibilities included shifts at the Trent Radio house, which consisted of letting programmers in and out of the radio house, tidying/closing up the area of use after the day, and so on. In doing this I would also be of assistance to programmers if needed, this included procedures and processes for going on air, as well as ensuring mask and screening policies for in-studio production were upheld. Throughout the duration of my shift (4;30pm-8;30pm) I would produce and present my show (TU Sports) which would air every Tuesday night at 6 pm. TU Sports is a radio show focused on the coverage of local sports and connecting with athletic-related community members as well as athletes from within the province (Professional hockey players Jana and Owen Hedrick, Olympic Swimmer Bailey Andison, Jack MacAlpine from the Trent Men's Lacrosse Team, etc.). On air, I would touch on topics such as the Peterborough OHL team the Peterborough Petes, the Trent Excalibur team and individual sporting events, high school level sports in the Peterborough region (OFSSA qualification, provincial championships), and so on. Throughout my time this season with the radio station, I also had the chance to produce programme promos for TU Sports and PSAs for local events and organizations.

This position at Trent Radio provided me with valuable experience, as well as new-found knowledge and a love for producing radio content. Through this, I was trained on how to use music and audio mixing applications which benefited me in enhancing my technological skills, as well as other skills with technologies like microphones, audio recording devices, and so on. Another aspect of Trent Radio that I found to be of value was the room for creativity that this specific station brings to radio, programmers are able to produce shows focusing on a vast category of subjects. Radio shows are customizable to individual aspirations and hobbies, likes and dislikes, etc.

I believe that this season was really well-organized regarding programmers whether it be volunteers or my co-workers there was a lot of communication which was very beneficial. I enjoy the fact that the Trent Radio team is very involved with its employees and volunteers in the sense that they ask for feedback and input to improve for the next season. This provides a spotlight for people to come forward with suggestions that may enhance production and overall enjoyment for the next season. For this reason, I do not have any suggestions for the following year.

### Kendall Boissoneau - Indigenous Student Producer

I, Kendall Boissoneau, produced and hosted the show named Indigativity through the 2022-2023 school season at Trent Radio. My show was about Indigenous voices, music, teachings, and most importantly joy! I had conversations with other Indigenous students on campus, had a show in all Anishinabemowin, and talked about how different and diverse we all are as Indigenous peoples. My job responsibilities included opening and closing, producing a half hour show once a week, as well as other things like supervising newer shows and keeping the radio house clean.

I enjoyed how open and creative the job is, I learned how to and not to save a file, so it doesn't erase, and so much more technological stuff that has allowed me to improve and apply my skills elsewhere.

The main things that allowed me to improve I feel was starting off at Trent radio with someone who was also new to producing a show. Me and Reese from the TU Sports show started together and were able to navigate this new scene together. I also enjoyed the frequent check-ins from Jill talking about my show and new ideas to keep me on the right track. For improving the experience for next year, I would just say keeping that community aspect to Trent Radio.

#### Hazel Dreslinski, Community Outreach & Programming Assistant

My responsibilities included:

- Training and monitoring live programmers
- Scheduling pre-recorded broadcast material using Libretime
- Maintaining records of broadcast content (using Excel) and keeping track of programme log submissions
- Designing social media promos and Trout Rodeo yearbook
- Recording PSAs
- Hosting a live interview
- Hosting a 4-week show, RPM Roundup, to highlight local RPM Challenge submissions

The diversity of responsibilities in this position allowed me to gain experience in a variety of areas, including data management, graphic design and working one-on-one with programmers. I feel that this variety is the position's greatest strength; I consistently looked forward to special assignments such as hosting a one-off interview or putting together the Trout Rodeo yearbook. The work environment was wonderfully supportive and I always felt able to reach out to my colleagues and supervisors with questions if necessary. I would absolutely recommend this job to potential applicants as is - I don't really think the experience could be improved!

#### Grayden Hatherly, Incoming Music Archivist

*General Job Responsibilities including Radio Show Name & Description if relevant:* Produced the IMA Interview Series which broadcasted on Tuesday's in the fall and Wednesday's in the winter seasons. This was a series where I interviewed local and touring artists about things like new music and upcoming shows/performances/events, as well as playing some of their songs. Responsibilities of this position also included responding to phone & email inquiries about submitting music, archiving local music submissions and uploading them to Libretime, helping local musicians with their RPM Challenge (answering questions about how to register, submit, rules, events, etc.), and recording interviews with local and touring musicians for broadcast. Also included in responsibilities was being an on-site support staff for programmers during their live shows, and helping programmers and musicians access resources such as the earshot digital distribution system.

*What aspects of the job did you enjoy and found to be valuable learning experiences?:* I really enjoyed getting to work on-site and interact directly with programmers who were doing their shows live this season. In terms of learning experiences, I think it was valuable to have learned how to upload content to Libretime and become comfortable with using it regularly. Also, even though I have been working here for a few years now, I still find that I'm learning new stuff about sound and audio editing all the time.

*Do you have any suggestions for improving the job description and/or experience for next year?:* I think having someone who can help with the amount of emails/submissions we get each week would be good. I found that with only having 6 hours a week and multiple responsibilities, that it wasn't always easy to stay consistent with responding to emails in a timely manner. This was especially true during the RPM Challenge and during weeks where I was also scheduling/recording/editing interviews for the IMA Interview series.

Mridul Harbhajanka, Production and Outreach Assistant

*Job Responsibilities:*

- On-site volunteer programmer support
- Managing the PSA email account
- Making PSAs and removing outdated ones
- Keeping the house clean and other daily duties
- Support with special events like Clubs & Groups Day, panel talks etc.
- Producing a local music radio show "Tunes of Nogo/Ptbo"
- Producing an interview-style radio show "Friday Afternoon Live" for community building around and within Peterborough
- Producing a remote radio show "Radio on the Go" from the Student Centre for community building with Trent students, alumni, faculty
- Maintaining/setting up equipment used for the remote broadcast
- Making promotional material for the radio shows (poster, Instagram lives)
- Producing special radio segments/series relevant to the community (like info segment on Naloxone, Fake News, upcoming events etc)

*Aspects I enjoyed:*

- The opportunity to give community members a spot on the radio when they requested for interviews (Friday Afternoon Live)
- Being able to interview, and just listen to, people with a diverse range of experiences to share (authors, musicians, drag queens etc)
- Going on campus and producing a live radio show from a public place (definitely intrigued people and made them more curious/aware about Trent Radio)
- "Out on the field" work: Remote broadcasting a talk by keynote speaker (the Jonathan Pinto event), recording a panel talk (Reframe event)
- Producing a local music show where I got to discover great music & be my authentic self (also helped me get more comfortable on the radio and go live without a plan/script)

### *Suggestions:*

- Making the remote broadcast from campus a permanent thing. Having a pull-out banner/standing poster with Trent Radio logo, name of the show etc. which can be taken to the Student Centre. Will make it easier for people to know what's happening and make it even more "official."
- Having some small Trent Radio pins/stickers/rubber bracelets to give out to guests who come on the show.
- Having a tripod and a device if we are doing Instagram livestreams for some special radio shows (especially from Student Centre)
- Maybe having another person responsible for PSAs? Sometimes I miss the emails and the event goes out of date before I get to make the PSA.

### Izzy Lloyd - Highschool Co-Op Placement, FA22

I started my placement at Trent Radio on September 14, 2022. My regular onsite hours are between 12:00 noon and 3:00pm.

My three main priorities at Trent Radio are checking the PSA account email, updating the Smooth Operator document, and producing Smooth Operator live from 2:00pm to 2:30pm every weekday. I review submissions to the PSA email, forward misdirected messages, and add relevant items to the Smooth Operator document. I ensure the information in the document is accurate, up-to-date, and legible. I do this by removing past events and formatting new additions according to conventions. Before going live, I line up my materials and do a sound check, making sure the microphone is in the correct position, and my audio sounds okay. During the live broadcast, I am responsible for reading aloud the items in the document for half an hour. Starting and ending the broadcast on time is very important. After each broadcast, I fill out the programme log. I am also responsible for pre-recording some PSAs and producing them to be aired.

I find editing the document very easy because it is a methodical, repetitive task which mostly lacks immediate time pressure. Filling out the programme log is also very easy.

I find broadcasting live the most difficult. It requires a lot of precision in regards to timing, and there are a lot of ways it could go wrong (i.e. many pieces of equipment that all need to be working and set correctly for it to be successful). Reading PSAs aloud for half an hour is also unexpectedly physically taxing. At the beginning of my placement I couldn't go the full half hour without needing to play pre-recorded PSAs so I could take a break and catch my breath. Now I am able to do the entire half hour without taking a break most days, and have a better sense of how long a PSA will take to read. It is still difficult to host Smooth Operator, but I have adapted and now feel more comfortable and confident with it.

The most exciting thing I've learned is just how many different types of content can be on the radio. I used to think of radio as strictly news, interviews, or music, but there's such a wide

variety of things you can produce. Hearing other people's shows and beginning to think about my own projects has made me very interested in radio as a creative medium.

#### Skye Vasey, Community Outreach & Programming Assistant

This year my duties at Trent Radio were primarily related to on-site support for programming on Thursday nights, but also included a few other aspects. In the fall I did a bit of public outreach, and in the spring I worked to create an archive of children's stories and music so that the children's show I piloted back in the summer of 2021 could become an archived and automated broadcast. I also created community PSAs and conducted the occasional interview with community members to promote upcoming events such as the RPM challenge, with interviews usually playing in the Smooth Operator time slot. I particularly enjoy supporting programmers and teaching in the studio; particularly teaching people how to use the soundboard and problem shooting when problems arise.

It has been great to see the progress that new programmers have made in learning the ropes and the great content that Trent Radio community members are putting out. I don't have any suggestions for future seasons, except that I really enjoyed the Trent Radio in person events and think we could try to do more in the future. I think they are totally worth the struggle of organizing, because they bring the community together in such a great way.

## Student Staff Reports - Summer 2023

### David King, Summer Events & Student Outreach Coordinator

General Job Responsibilities including Radio Show Name & Description if relevant: The Summer Events & Student Outreach Coordinator is responsible for increasing Trent Radio's presence on campus, and enhancing in-person student engagement activities by being present on campus to deliver workshops, information sessions and creative events. Also back-up on-site support, managing the PSA email account, and programming three times a week with Radio On The Go, AMPLIFYR, and replays of both/Smooth Op PSAs. June included the opportunity to have a special interview with honorary degree recipients from Trent, the Battle of the Bands Radio Project Day. July showcased Orientation Day on July 21st, broadcasted from 12-2p from Otonabee College and Worldbuilder's Radio Project Day on July 29 for twelve hours. August was a bit slower, with assisting with a program proposal workshops at First Friday (Aug 4) 6-8pm at Tragically Dipped, Aug 17 at Food Shop, and informally at Folk Festival. Coordinating volunteers and staff at the Folk Festival for two days was a thrilling experience as well.

#### FOLK FESTIVAL: AUGUST 19-20th

- Sat 11-7p
- Sun 11-6p
- Set up 9:30-10:30a

In conclusion, I thoroughly enjoyed deepening my technical knowledge of how radio is produced and broadcast, especially learning how equipment functions and what needs to be used to successfully produce content. The connections I got to make with staff and programmers were also incredibly rewarding and will absolutely carry on past my contract. Coordination, collaboration, and outreach are all very valuable leadership skills I honed during this time, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to have spent the summer at Trent Radio.

### Mikaela Lewis, CSJ Summer Producer

*Responsibilities:* producing 2 new shows about underrepresented voices, helping to run and organize the [psa@trentradio.ca](mailto:psa@trentradio.ca) account, recording PSAs, helping to organize a Radio Project Day, helping to organize and facilitate program proposal workshops, providing on site support to programmers, introducing new guests to the house and Trent Radio

#### *Shows:*

What's Happening this Summer: "A discussion with different youth organizations about what they do and events that are happening in the community and then music and writings made by young people in Peterborough." Each week I brought in a different guest from a different organization who was running a camp or providing different services for people under 18 in Peterborough this summer. I also played music and read out different write-ups by youth in Peterborough.

TRANSmission Radio: "Transmissions Radio is made to uplift the voices of trans, nonbinary, and gender diverse people in the community. Each week, I will talk with a guest about themselves and their life and how being trans affects those things. We will also discuss news stories related to trans people and trans history." Each week I brought in a different trans person from Peterborough to interview them and talk about how being trans affects them and being trans in Peterborough, including talking about trans news and trans people from history.

*Things I enjoyed:* I really enjoyed getting to bring new community members into the space for the first time to be on the radio. I also enjoyed getting to know everyone else on staff and being able to collaborate on events. I got to learn a lot about the basics of audio editing and what Trent Radio does beyond being a volunteer. I also got to learn about the larger legal aspects with everything surrounding Bill C-18 and how Trent Radio makes decisions.

*Suggestions:* My main suggestion is a longer contract if possible. 7 weeks for shows was not really long enough to really get into everything I wanted to do. I think a bit more guidance in the beginning to be a bit clearer about job responsibilities especially if the person coming in is new to Trent Radio would be very beneficial.