

Chuck Jackson – 2016 Bio

Chuck Jackson is Downchild's singer and harmonica player; the sort of openhearted, friendly guy who builds an instant rapport with audiences. He came to Downchild 27 years ago after a long career with a number of top Canadian bands. An Award Winning singer, who rates **Big Joe Turner, Otis Redding and Junior Wells** as major influences, Jackson's also is an excellent songwriter, and there are plenty of his songs on many of the groups recordings. He's also a fine harmonica player, and a special highlight of the band's performances is a harp duet with Mr. Downchild. Chuck is also the Founder and Artistic Director of the annual award winning **Tim Hortons Southside Shuffle Blues and Jazz Festival** which has become an major event on the North American festival circuit. He is also the Artistic Director of **Wasaga Beach Blues**, the excellent new blues event in Wasaga Beach every September. With Downchild he has been nominated for 5 Junos and in 2014 won the **Juno for Blues Album of the Year** for their CD Can you hear the Music. Chuck has been nominated 7 times and won the **Maple Blues Award, Male Vocalist of the Year** twice, in 1999 and 2007. He was also honoured in 2002 with the Toronto Blues Society's prestigious **Blues With a Feeling Award** for his achievements during a distinguished career. In 2012 Chuck received the prestigious **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal** and in 2013 was inducted to the **Mississauga Music Walk of Fame** and **Mississauga Legends Row**. In 2016 Chuck will be touring across Canada with **The Legendary Downchild Blues Band** and **The Last Waltz – The Music of The Band**. Now in his 27th year with Downchild and 43rd year in the Canadian Music Industry, Chuck says *"Being able to play the music I love and entertain the wonderful people across Canada and around the world is certainly a dream come true and one I will continue to follow"*.