

BRANDON SUN

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Victory Day



BRUCE BUNNHEAD/BRANDON SUN

Musician Tom Cochrane, who is a Manitoba native, shows his appreciation while being conferred by Brandon University President Lou Visentin. Cochrane was one of four people who received honorary doctorates during BU's graduation ceremonies yesterday at the Keystone Centre. For more coverage, please turn to Page 3.

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Cochrane's detour leads to doctorate

By Ian Hitchen

IF life is highway, Tom Cochrane made a worthwhile detour to Brandon yesterday.

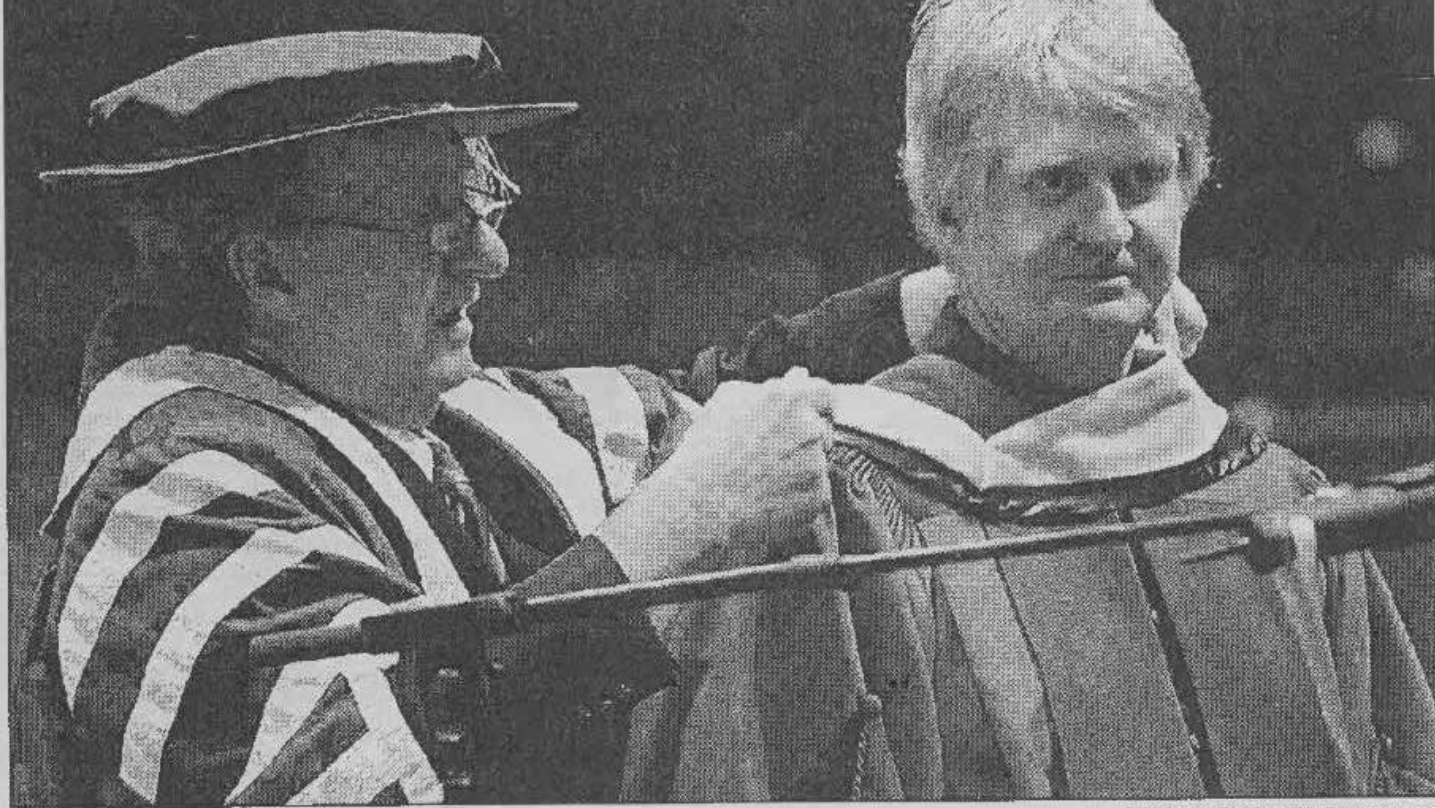
The Juno-winning, 52-year-old rocker known for hits like *Life is a Highway* and *Big League* stopped at the Keystone Centre where Brandon University dubbed him Doctor of Music.

"It's humbling to know how hard you've worked," Cochrane, a native of Lynn Lake, Man., told graduates as he stood in a blue and red robe and hat. "I really took the shortcut, didn't I?"

Cochrane finished Grade 12 and studied music for a year at Toronto's Humber College, but this was his first honorary doctorate.

"Brandon has had a long tradition of recognizing the importance of music and the arts," Cochrane said before the ceremony. "For them to recognize popular music as an art form through this degree... I think it bodes well on them.

"I'm just very very humbled and



BRUCE BUMSTEAD / BRANDON SUN

BU president Dr. Louis Visentin, left, confers degree on Tom Cochrane.

flattered."

Cochrane and the 660 BU grads were joined by fellow Juno award-winner and Brandon product James Ehnes, whose honorary music doctorate made him the university's youngest doctor at 29.

"It's overwhelming to me and it's certainly a very special day," said Ehnes, a world-renowned classical violinist who received part of his childhood training through the BU conservatory.

"Without that kind of training it's doubtful I would be able to be where I am today."

Brandon-born news correspondent

Henry Champ and Saskatchewan's Shirley Douglas also picked up honorary degrees.

Douglas is an actor, daughter of Medicare founder Tommy Douglas and mother of actor Kiefer Sutherland.

"I like to tell the graduates that they should go out bloom where they're planted," BU president Lou Visentin said. "These people are examples of people that grew up in the Prairies, and went to work and they bloomed where they were planted."



PROUD MOMENTS: Rock and roller Tom Cochrane, left, and Brandon violinist James Ehnes were two of four recipients of hon-

ourary doctorate degrees from Brandon University Saturday.

Journal photo by Bruce Penton

Music makers honoured with doctorates