

Events Calendar

December 3, 2006

Mustard Seed Dinner at the Bay Street Armoury
The 5th Field Band entertains hundreds of diners and volunteers for this successful annual event.

For more information visit
www.mustardseed.ca.

December 13, 2006

Combined Christmas concert with Greater Victoria Concert Band and 5th Field Band
Esquimalt High School Auditorium,
7:30pm

Admission is by donation of a non-perishable food item, with all proceeds to the Mustard Seed Street Church.

For more information visit
www.5fieldband.ca



5TH (British Columbia) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery Band
715 Bay Street, Victoria, British Columbia V8T 1R1
Phone: (250) 363-8203 Fax: (250) 363-3512 Orderly Room: (250) 363-3626
Email: info@5fieldband.ca Website: www.5fieldband.ca

Fall 2006
Volume 2, Issue 1

The Mouthpiece

The newsletter for friends of the
5TH (BC) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery Band

In this issue:

- From the Podium
- What We're Up To
- In The Spotlight
- Events Calendar
- Contact info

From the Podium

By CWO Frank Eigler, Bandmaster

Those of you who braved last year's downpour on Remembrance Day no doubt joined us in our appreciation of the weather this year - and *change* is what this third issue of *The Mouthpiece* is all about.

Starting at the top, we recently welcomed in a new Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Craig L. Cotter, and said farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel David A. Ross, our CO since 2003. This occurred at the end of September, with the formal Change of Command Parade at our home in the Bay Street Armoury. LCol Cotter has quickly shown himself to be as good a friend to the band as we've had in that chair, and we look forward to continuing our work under his leadership.

Within the band you will notice change as well. Working in the Reserve Force brings with it an understanding that civilian life and commitments can significantly impact upon a member's service. Sometimes "life" takes a member to another part of the country, and they find that they must leave us; just as often, however, it offers someone else an opportunity to join us. See how one of our newest members reflects upon change *In The Spotlight*.

Those of you who have included our Annual Christmas Concert with the Greater Victoria Concert Band in your seasonal outings, may recall that we have traditionally performed both Leroy Anderson's *Christmas Festival* and Sammy Nestico's *Fireside Christmas*, jointly, at the end of our program. 2006 marks our fourth season together, and we have decided that it's time for a change there as well. This year we will be performing an Alfred Reed masterpiece: *Russian Christmas Music*. It is a truly wonderful piece of music that is very well suited to -- and quite demanding of -- the combined forces of the two bands. I really hope you'll be able to come out and take the opportunity to listen to this very popular symphonic band work.

"Change is good", as they say - and our recent experiences and experiments are bearing that out. I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Mouthpiece* and, on behalf of the 5th (BC) Field Regiment, RCA Band, I'd like to offer you our best wishes for the season!



What We're Up To

By MWO Daniel Moses, Band Sergeant Major

It's been a while since the second issue and we've been busy! Engagements of note since April 1 include our Annual Spring Concert, which is becoming quite a tradition in the community. This year, the concert was held at Bay Street Armoury, on April 23, under the red and blue banners of the Royal Canadian Artillery. The festive air was tempered by the death of one of the Regiment's own. We received the news the day before our concert that Bombardier Myles Mansell had been killed while on patrol, in Afghanistan. Our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Ross, used the occasion of our concert to say a few words. The concert was dedicated to Bdr Mansell's memory and was enjoyed by all, featuring not only our band, but the cadet band from the 2289 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron and the drumline from the 5th Field Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

The next week, the drummers of the band marched in Bdr Mansell's funeral procession, and the band was waiting inside Christ Church Cathedral to perform for our fallen comrade. It was a beautiful, if terribly sad, day.

Next, we performed at Ship Point, to accompany the firing of the 21-gun salute at noon on Victoria Day, May 22. As if they were following us, the guns were fired at noon at our next engagement as well, the Canada Day celebrations at Fort Rodd Hill. Despite being one of our hottest gigs, playing in full sun, it was a great day, made even better by cake! Not to be outdone, the Municipality of Saanich rolled out the red carpet for us on the occasion of its 100th birthday, July 9.

Our regular concert series at Fort Rodd Hill began on August 6, and the weather permitted us to play all four Sunday afternoons in August this year. As usual, it was difficult to tell whether the audience or the band enjoyed our performances there more. At our second concert, we were pleased to invite a young guest conductor to the podium, namely Anna Slater. She had won the opportunity to take the baton by submitting the best entry in a colouring contest sponsored by the Goldstream Gazette. She did a fabulous job!

For the second year in a row, the band was asked to perform a graduation parade for the candidates of the Raven Programme, a Basic Military Qualification course run by the Naval Reserve for youth in the First Nations community. The parade, on August 25, was attended by Her Honour, Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo, and featured First Nations dancers as part of the ceremony.

Our annual September concert at the Cameron Bandshell, Beacon Hill Park, was a wonderful way to end our Summer concert season and to welcome the return of our members who were employed elsewhere during the Summer. Several of our numbers contributed their talent to the Band of the Ceremonial Guard on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, while others attended Musician training at Canadian Forces Base Borden. Not only were we welcoming current members home, but we were also welcoming new members to the fold. Privates Emily Albu and Lurene Bates, from Windsor, Ontario and Victoria, respectively, and Corporal Scott MacInnes from Toronto, are transferring to our ranks, and we are very happy to have WO Carl McLean transferring to us from Naden Band and joining our saxophone section (see *In the Spotlight*).

In The Spotlight

By Cpl Fossitt

One of the 5th Field Band's newest members, Carl McLean, brings with him 26 years of regular force experience and a wealth of knowledge that has already been an asset to the band.

Carl was born in Quebec City in 1959, and moved to Victoria to learn English when his father was posted to the School of Music in Victoria in 1978. After working as a mechanic for a few years, Carl decided to follow in his father's footsteps and join the regular force as a musician in 1980. Carl worked his way up to the rank of Warrant Officer as a saxophonist, serving in the Naden Band in Victoria, the Royal Canadian Artillery Band in Montreal, the Stadacona Band in Halifax, and returning to Victoria to finish his career. Throughout this time, Carl learned the ins and outs of public relations and administration for the bands and his organizational skills were honed.

When the regular force music programs were drastically cut in 1994, and Naden Band was temporary dissolved, many of the musicians had a sudden wake-up call as to what they might do if they no longer had the job as a Canadian Forces musician. The civilian world of music is highly competitive and doesn't come with a regular salary, so Carl decided to take many of the organization and leadership skills he learned in the military and start preparing for the day he would retire.

After obtaining his Diploma in Real Property Appraisal from St.-Francis Xavier University, the accreditation changed and

certification now required a university degree.

So, Carl spent years completing his Bachelor of Commerce through Royal Roads University, studying on the way to gigs and working on his days off. Before Carl retired he also obtained his Diploma in Real Estate Trading Services to ensure as many opportunities as possible would be available to him.

With several job offers to choose from, Carl retired from the regular force this past August, and is building an excellent client base through his job as a Mortgage Consultant for the Mortgage Centre. Many of the professional skills that he learned in his years in the Canadian Forces have served to make the transition to the civilian world a smooth one and the 5th Field Band is delighted to have him as a new member of our group.

Carl McLean

