

Events Calendar

Spring Concert

Sunday, April 20th – 2:00 p.m.

Victoria Conservatory of Music

An afternoon of marches and concert music from around the world! Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to the Fifth BC Artillery RCA Foundation.

South Vancouver Island Tattoo

Saturday, May 3rd – 7:30 p.m.

Archie Browning Memorial Arena

We are joined by our friends from the Chief & Petty Officer's Association Band in support of this popular annual event.

Victoria Day Gun Salute

Monday, May 19th – noon

Ship Point (Inner Harbour)

See us support the guns of the regiment as they fire the traditional noon salute. Don't forget your earplugs!

Arrival of the Tall Ships

Wednesday, June 25th – 7:00 p.m.

Fort Rodd Hill, National Historic Site

No tours of the ships until the next day, but this is a great opportunity to relax with some of the crews and volunteers participating in this triennial event – and you can enjoy this army band's take on some nautical music, as well!

Please visit our website for the most current information.

Recruiting Corner

We are currently accepting applications for reserve and, in some sections, associate membership. Our next auditions will be held in September 2008, but you are encouraged to contact us well in advance to set up an appointment.

Contact Us!

If you have any suggestions or content for *The Mouthpiece*, please feel free to let us know by phone, fax or by e-mail!

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The Mouthpiece

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

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From the Podium

Chief Warrant Officer Frank Eigler, Bandmaster

Busy! If there's one word to describe this time of year for the band and its members, that would be it. But, of course, there are many kinds of *busy* – it's just nice to see that this year's has been "the good kind".

This January we hit the ground running as we accepted an invitation from the Greater Victoria Police Pipe Band to participate in their annual *Robbie Burns Dinner*. February saw another first as we were asked to stand in for the touring Naden Band at the *Annual Mess Dinner* hosted by the Union Club, while March had us again supporting the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) Ceilidh here at the Bay Street Armoury.

As you read this, we will be busying ourselves with preparations not only for our Spring Concert on April 20th, but also the *58th Annual British Columbia Military Ball* taking place the previous weekend. This event, produced by the Vancouver Garrison Officer's Society, has been held across the water for many years, but for 2008 they decided to move it to Victoria. Joined by the Canadian Scottish Pipes & Drums and the Band of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA, from Vancouver, we commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the end of World War One, and several other notable events.

On a more personal level, Corporal Jonathan Eng has continued to augment the Naden Band and, joined by Sergeant Vicky Killion, applied his talent in support of the Regional Cadet Honour Band tour during the recent Spring Break. Nothing is more personal than family, and so we were delighted to celebrate the recent addition of baby *Natalie* to the Crowhurst family – *and* (hopefully, by the time this is in your hands) to welcome father Steve Crowhurst to the reserves!

So, what do our folks do in their *real* life when they're not with us? Read about that on page three as we feature Captain James Warner, who has thirty-seven continuous years of military service under his belt, *In The Spotlight!*

As always, we hope you enjoy this issue of *The Mouthpiece*, and that you'll be able to take some time from *your* busy life to join us at some of our upcoming events.

Ubique!

Band FAQs

Q: What's a FAQ?

A: Pronounced “fack”, it is a commonly used abbreviation for “Frequently Asked Question”. It’s a place to present answers to recurring questions that a group receives.

Q: I really enjoyed a show of yours that I attended and would like to make a donation to the band. How may I do that?

A: We’re glad that you enjoyed the show, and hope to see you at the next Fifth Field Regiment Band concert. As an authorized band of the Canadian Forces, however, we are not permitted to accept donations, honorariums, or gratuities. Our services are provided for by the crown. You may, of course, make contributions directly to the sponsors of any of our concerts; they would certainly appreciate your support!

Q: What do you mean by an “authorized band of the Canadian Forces” ?

A: An “authorized band of the Canadian Forces” is one that has been authorized by its establishment as an organization that is an integral part of the Department of National Defence structure. Like other Canadian forces units, all necessary resources, including pay and equipment, is publicly funded (i.e. through taxes).

Q: You also have civilians in your band, right?

A: Yes, we do. With the approval of its Commanding Officer, a Canadian Forces Band may be augmented by skilled civilian musicians (aka *associates*). They may be contracted, invited, or themselves request, to perform with the band. Those who apply to become Associate Members are interviewed, and will have to successfully demonstrate a satisfactory skill level by means of an audition. Civilian members are accepted with the understanding that, because they are volunteers, there is to be no expectation of remuneration beyond that of unusual costs directly incurred as a result of their participation in band activities.

In The Spotlight: Captain James Warner

One of our longer serving military members is Captain James Warner, principle oboist and Band Administration Officer. A native west coaster, Jim began his musical activities at the age of ten on trumpet, then moved on to horn shortly after joining the *Chilliwack Community Band* two years later.

By 1970, Jim had decided to pursue a career in the Canadian Forces. Upon his arrival at the School of Music in Victoria, however, he was assigned the Oboe to study – military intelligence, eh! After completing the standard two-year training program, Jim was posted first to the *Naden Band*, then to the *PPCLI Band* in Calgary, serving as oboist and sound technician.

Jim had always had an interest in things mechanical. Thus, after much soul-searching and personal reflection, the decision was made in 1980 to radically change career paths: he applied to the prestigious *Royal Military College* in Kingston, Ontario, graduating as a Lieutenant in the Electrical & Mechanical Engineering branch, Bachelor of Applied Science, in 1984.

1994 found Jim retired from the Regular Force and living in Sooke (he often says that the most memorable moment of his career was when he sold his snow blower!). With some gentle persuasion from his wife, his long neglected friend was dusted off, and Jim started looking for a gig. He first joined the local *Civic Orchestra*

and, by 1995, was sitting in with the Fifth as an associate member. Shortly thereafter, Jim was approached to reactivate his commission and become the Unit Technical Adjutant. This he did and, in the following year, was appointed the Band Administration Officer. This was a time of massive change in the forces. That the Fifth Band still exists, in spite of many “situations” that arose during that period, is due in part to Jim’s passion, dedication and hard work on the band’s behalf.



In 1998, ever restless, he approached fellow Sooke retiree, Norman Nelson, to conduct a small orchestra. Nelson, a founding member of the renowned *Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields Orchestra* and internationally respected violinist, agreed. Along with Jim, he and others founded the *Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra*.

Jim claims that he is retired, but manages to keep “a little busy”. As well as periodically filling in at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, he has a day job as a motorcycle-driving instructor with the Vancouver Island Safety Council, and further indulges his passion by operating a small motorcycle repair business that specializes in the repair and restoration of vintage and classic motorcycles. At last count, he is learning machining and welding, but tries to find at least an hour a day for Oboe practice. It’s nice to see that some old habits die hard!