

Events Calendar

Christmas Concert

Friday, December 12th – 7:30 p.m.

Esquimalt High School Auditorium

Hosted by Rick Underwood and the Greater Victoria Concert Band, you are invited to attend this, our 6th annual combined concert of seasonal music. Admission is by donation of a nonperishable food item, with all proceeds to the Mustard Seed Street Church & Food Bank.

Mustard Seed Annual Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 14th, 2008

Bay Street Armoury

The 5th Field Band entertains hundreds of guests and volunteers for this special annual event. Seating at 3:00 and 6:00 pm. For more information please visit www.mustardseed.ca

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 scheduled auditions are in March 2009, 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!



5th (British Columbia) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery Band

715 Bay Street, Victoria, British Columbia V8T 1R1

Phone: 363-8203 Fax: 363-3512 Orderly Room: 363-3626

Email: info@5fieldband.ca

Website: www.5fieldband.ca

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The Mouthpiece

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

From the Podium

Chief Warrant Officer Frank Eigler, Bandmaster

Bodhi. Christmas. Diwali. Dongil. Hajj. Hanukkah. Kwanzaa. Rohatsu. Yule. Regardless of one's faith or persuasion, this time of year is often hailed as a favourite by many, but regarded as a humbug by some; it seems to overwhelm with near frantic activity, yet promise days of wonder for the less cynical amongst us. Most seem to agree, however, that it can be a wonderful opportunity for reflection of the year gone by, and contemplation of the year to come.

For us, the highlight of 2008 was 39 Canadian Brigade Group's 58th Annual Military Ball. Held for the first time in Victoria, it was by all accounts a very successful event. We had the opportunity to work closely with our Bay Street Armoury neighbours from the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) Pipes and Drums, as well as the Band of the Fifteenth Field Regiment, RCA, from Vancouver, and enjoyed the time spent with them very much.

We continued with performances at various venues throughout Greater Victoria as we strove to meet our mandate of providing musical support to the various military, governmental and civilian organizations in the area. Notable events included: the firing of the Regiment's Guns on Victoria Day; the return of the Tall Ships in June; Canada Day celebrations at Fort Rodd Hill; and public concerts at the Conservatory of Music and Beacon Hill Park.

Much can change over a year, and although Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day are now past, we keep the sentiments of those occasions

close to our hearts as we approach the end of 2008. While many of us may feel anxious in these uncertain times, most have a reasonable degree of security in their lives that will permit them to withstand it. Many others, however, do not. I thought upon this recently when reminded of the duty implicit for all of us to care for the more vulnerable members of society – to provide help to those in need, and hope to those in despair. As we finalize preparations for our upcoming performances in support of the Mustard Seed Food Bank, I would ask everyone to both consider what service you could provide those who are particularly vulnerable at this time of year, and take a moment to think of those overseas who are attempting to provide comfort to the vulnerable around the world.

Allow me to convey my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the support that each of you have given us over this past year. On behalf of the band, I wish you a peaceful and happy holiday season, with best wishes for a very joyful, safe and successful 2009. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

On The Town

Do **YOU** love Handel's Messiah? Then check out:

Malaspina Choir and Vancouver Island Symphony

Port Theatre, 125 Front Street, Nanaimo

250-754-8550

December 9th – 7:30 PM

Victoria Symphony and Victoria Choral Society

University Centre Farquhar Auditorium, University of Victoria,

3800 Finnerty Road

250-721-8480

December 19th, 2008 - 8 PM December 21st – 2:30 PM

The Civic Orchestra of Victoria – 10th Annual Sing-a-long!

Alix Goolden Performance Hall, 907 Pandora ave (at Quadra)

250-386-5311

December 20th – 2 PM

Other seasonal favourites include:

Greater Victoria Concert Band

Market Square

250-386-2238

Dec 13th – 1 PM

Chief and Petty Officers Association Band

Royal Canadian Legion Esquimalt Branch 172

622 Admirals Road

250-386-7635

December 14th – 2 PM

Naden Band Christmas Concert – 30th Annual!

Royal Theatre, 805 Broughton Street

December 15, 16 and 17th – 7:30 PM

250-386-6121

In The Spotlight: Sergeant Ameer Bodman

[Sgt. Bodman is currently the band's Head Librarian and Solo Euphonium.]

Ameer was born in Victoria, BC, and continues to reside there today. She began her musical career at age 11 where she chose to play the baritone. Though she originally wanted to play the trumpet, she still recalls how her teacher persuaded her to play baritone by telling her it was the “same instrument, just a little bigger”! Ever since then, she has found herself a spot in many bands and is happy she was set on the path to play a unique and uncommon instrument. A few years after beginning on baritone, Ameer upgraded to euphonium, and began teaching herself trombone and tuba, all of which she continues to play.



Currently, Ameer is teaching at View Royal Elementary where she is the Learning Support Teacher - an educator who teaches children with exceptionalities. Her life remains busy as she continues her education by working towards a Graduate Diploma in Special Education at Vancouver Island University. She began her educational career teaching fine arts classes at the high school level. Ameer then took an opportunity to teach elementary music, and finding that she loved the age level, began thinking about changing her teaching speciality to the elementary level.

Most recently, Ameer applied for and was accepted to attend a live audition for a euphonium position with the Regular Force. She is, as of this writing, awaiting formal acceptance and possible job offer.

Ameer joined the military in 2001 when she was accepted into the Band of the Ceremonial Guard, a group composed of musicians selected from across the nation that plays for the Changing of the Guard on Parliament Hill. Concurrently with this, she was earning her Bachelor of Music at the University of Victoria, with a specialization in Music Education. Ameer enjoyed six summers with the Band of the Ceremonial Guard where she also took on the duties of Band Librarian.



From *The Mouthpiece* Fall 2005:
“MCpl Ameer Bodman takes her first step on a rappelling exercise.”