

Events Calendar

Spring Concert

Sunday, April 19th, 2009 – 2:00 p.m.

Victoria Conservatory of Music

An afternoon of marches and concert music, with something for the whole family! Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to the Fifth BC Artillery RCA Foundation.

South Vancouver Island Tattoo

Saturday, May 9th, 2009 – 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 18th, 2009 – Noon

Ship Point (Inner Harbour)

Join us as we support the guns of the regiment as they fire the traditional noon salute celebrating our Monarch's official birthday and our city's namesake. Don't forget your earplugs!

Canada Day Celebration

Wednesday, July 1st, 2009 – 11:30 a.m.

Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site

The band celebrates Canada's 142nd birthday with friends and family from throughout the community.

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 September 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

Spring 2009
Volume 4, Issue 2

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

Spring – it looks like it finally *is* in the air! And just in time. As we busy ourselves putting on the final touches for our upcoming Spring Concert, it's nice to be able to take a moment and simply enjoy the warm sunshine before heading back to the stand.

Speaking of the Spring Concert, this year's program is not one you will want to miss. It's going to include a wonderfully eclectic collection of festive and celebratory show tunes (including every military musician's favourite, *Don't Rain On My Parade*), traditional marches, a wedding processional, and even a *sing-a-long*!! The highlight of the concert, however, is bound to be the adaptation of the Finale to Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 ("Reformation") by long-time Associate Member Austin Scott, and performed in recognition of the bicentenary of Mendelssohn's birth. Those of you familiar with the local concert music scene will immediately recognize Austin's name – he is a true musical treasure in this community, and I have personally been quite grateful for his guidance and support during my time as the regimental bandmaster. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this venerable flautist, we're very pleased to bring you up to speed by featuring him in an extended *In The Spotlight*.

On the other side of the proverbial coin, I'm pleased to draw your attention to some very fresh faces sharing the stage with us this year: Becky Summers, Caitlyn Stewart, and (newly

enrolled) Private Sheila MacMillan have all recently been accepted for summer employment with the Band of the Ceremonial Guard in Ottawa. We look forward to their return in the fall, and continued participation with the 5th Field Band!

A friend recently directed me to the welcoming address given by Dr. Karl Paulnack, director of the Music Division of The Boston Conservatory, to the parents of incoming music students back in September 2004. It is a wonderful, thoughtful and inspiring piece of writing – at times profound; at times quite intimate – concerning the author's feelings on the role of a musician. Near its end he confides to his audience that he will be admonishing that year's freshman class, in part, as follows: "I expect you not only to master music; I expect you to save the planet." Heady stuff! While we admit to a degree of uncertainty as to our ability to meet this imperative, I have no doubt that the profound and the intimate spoken of by Dr. Paulnack, and which resonated so deeply with many of those with whom I shared this find, will be evident in the band's upcoming musical efforts. I hope to see you there!

In The Spotlight: Austin A. Scott, Jr.

Master Warrant Officer Dan Moses, Band Sergeant Major

Chances are that anyone who has attended a concert of the 5th (BC) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery Band within the past quarter century will have seen this distinguished gentleman downstage centre, playing flute or piccolo – for Austin Scott, Jr. has been a fixture of this band since 1985, when he started playing with the band as a civilian Associate member.

Even in 2009, his 90th year, Austin was still trekking up the stairs to room 308C at the Bay Street Armoury every Tuesday night to rehearse with the band, share with us his talents and enthusiasm, and offer his unique perspective on the music we played and the composers who wrote it. If anyone in the band had queries about where or why or when or for whom a piece of music was written, we naturally turned to Austin – the Encyclopedia of Austin!

Born into a Quaker family in Rockville Center, Long Island, New York, on January 6, 1920, Austin didn't start playing flute until he was fifteen. His father was a military musician, having started playing the fife when the military assigned him to the band, out of respect for his



Quaker beliefs. One day, Austin found an old flute his father had bought at a second-hand shop, and he decided to teach himself how to play. When he took it to school, his teacher marvelled at the relic Austin was playing and suggested he change to a more modern flute.

At the age of 19, Austin went off to a Quaker college in North Carolina, and joined the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra, touring throughout the entire state for four years. When the US entered into WW II, Austin was a registered Conscientious Objector which meant that his Quaker roots precluded him from any combat or combat-related trade. Instead, he was assigned work with the Civilian Public Service (CPS) in Cades Cove, near Gatlinburg, Tennessee. His duties for the next two years included maintaining trails and picnic areas in Smoky Mountain National Park, building bridges, and fighting forest-fires. Austin recalls that Cades Cove was so isolated from civilization that its inhabitants not only had their own dialect, but also their own vocabulary!

Following his time with the CPS, Austin succeeded in getting a Detached Service position as an attendant at a Byberry Mental Hospital, near Philadelphia, and in 1948, Austin began post-graduate studies at the Julliard School of Music. There, he joined the studio of Arthur Lora, the new Principal Flute of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and of Toscanini's NBC

Symphony. Eventually, Austin transferred to Columbia School of Music where he had the opportunity to earn a Master's degree in Music.

Austin met his future wife, Mary Jane, a recent Scottish immigrant, in 1950 through a group of young Friends in New York City, while he was still a student. They married, and, in 1952, after working in private and public schools in Tarrytown and New Rochelle, New York, Mary Jane convinced Austin that they should move back to Edinburgh, Scotland for work. It was not intended to be a long stay, but they ended up living in Britain for 14 years. Both of their children, Douglas and Rosalind were born in Britain, and, in 1966, the whole Scott clan returned to the United States. Austin found that his contacts in the music and teaching world had dried up in the New York area during his absence, so he decided to apply for work in Canada. In 1967, he was offered teaching positions in Montreal, Powell River, Cranbrook, and Victoria. Austin determined that Montreal looked frightful, in part due to the weather and in part due to the recent PLQ bombings, and received some strong discouragement about considering Powell River. Finally, he chose to take a job at Esquimalt High School and moved his family to Victoria.

As he settled in as the band teacher there, he realized that no other music teachers in the area had applied for the job. He soon saw why. Esquimalt was a tough neighbourhood in those days, and, after one year, Austin decided that it was not the ideal environment in which to start a music programme. Fortunately, he happened

to meet the Chairman of the Education Committee for the North Saanich School Board who said that they were looking to start a band programme. For the next 18 years, Austin taught music and conducted bands at all but one school in North Saanich. As if his teaching duties were not sufficient to occupy his time, Austin also auditioned for the Victoria Symphony when he arrived in 1967. He won the Assistant Principal Flute and Piccolo chair, and stayed for seven seasons, until 1974.

Austin retired from the North Saanich School District in 1985 and began two new adventures: conducting the Hampton Orchestra (until 1999) and playing with the 5th Field Regiment Band. His tenure with our group has lasted longer than his teaching career in North Saanich and he has been a most welcome fixture in our organization.

Due to a back injury suffered this February, Austin has been temporarily unable to rehearse with the band, but he does continue to teach dozens of flute students at his house. Such is his love for music and his devotion to his students! So, the next time you attend a 5th Field Band concert, keep an eye out for a gentleman with snow-white hair and a big grin on his face and make sure you say hello. Austin will always be part of the 5th. We salute you, Austin!

Favourite Austin trivia: At the age of 11, Austin went to the Chicago World's Fair and saw the very last public performance of the Sousa Band – conducted by John Philip Sousa, himself!