

Events Calendar

Sunday, April 18th – Annual Spring Concert / 5Fd Regt Foundation Fundraiser
Victoria Conservatory of Music

Tuesday, April 20th – Queens Own Rifles Cairn Unveiling
University of Victoria

Tuesday, April 20th – Queens Own Rifles 150th Anniversary Dinner
Saanich Recreation Centre (*Private event*)

Saturday, May 15th – Regt Change of Command Parade
Fort Rodd Hill

Monday, May 24th – Victoria Day Noon Salute
Ship Point, Victoria Inner Harbour

Thursday, July 1st – Canada Day Celebrations
Fort Rodd Hill

Sunday, September 19th – Public Concert
Cameron Bandshell, Beacon Hill Park

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 2010, 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*

From the Podium

Chief Warrant Officer Frank Eigler, Bandmaster

As this issue “goes to press”, we are just over two weeks away from our Annual Spring Concert! Always a highlight in the band’s calendar – and yours too, we trust – this event typically marks the last opportunity until September for all of our members to perform together before summer commitments temporarily thin our ranks.

This year, for example, will see Master Corporal Krystal Morrison, our Principal Clarinet, off to Canadian Forces Base Borden, Ontario, to instruct at the Music Training Cadre. Several others, led by Master Corporal Jonathan Eng, will return to Ottawa for a challenging, but undoubtedly rewarding, summer with the Band of the Ceremonial Guard.

Every year we provide a small group of experienced musicians from amongst our ranks to both perform and fill leadership positions within the Band of the Ceremonial Guard. In return, the Ceremonial Guard recruits and trains new members who then often transfer into our band at the end of their summer employment. It’s truly a win-win relationship! And the experience that is offered is amazing. In addition to the daily Changing of the Guard, members may find themselves tasked with supporting any number of official functions held at Rideau Hall (official residence of the Governor General), foreign embassies, and other sites around the national capital region. They will also participate in the “Fortissimo” Ceremony from August 12th to 15th, and a select group will travel to Halifax to perform at the famed Royal

Nova Scotia International Tattoo – billed as the largest indoor show in the world! As a Naval Reservist I had the opportunity to participate in ten – yes, *ten* – Nova Scotia Tattoos, and I still consider those times as some of the most enjoyable – and valuable – of my career. I am confident that those fortunate enough to be chosen for this event will feel likewise.

Speaking of fortunate – joining them this year is a recent transfer to the 5th, Corporal Michel Wade, formerly of The Royal Regiment of Canada. He’s only been with us a short while, but we’ve felt fortunate to avail ourselves of his talents. He should add nicely to our proud presence on the hill!

And speaking of proud – one of our members returning to CG this year, Private Becky Summers, was selected to be featured *In The Spotlight* this time around. I always find it interesting to learn about the background of our members, and what prompted them to join our ranks. I hope you will too.

Ubique!

What They've Been Saying!

For several years, the band has solicited audience feedback at its various performances. Naturally enough, the question was eventually asked: "Does anyone really *read* those things!?" Well, we're here to assure you that we do! So, if you've yet to attend one of our Spring Concerts – or, better yet, if you're trying to convince a friend or three to join you in 2010 – we invite you to check out a few of the comments we've received over the past years about our performances at the Alix Golden. Some are very typical; a few ... unique, but from the heart!

Great concert - most enjoyable. Thanks!

Anything you play will be wonderful!

Wonderful – It's a pleasure to hear good music – plus I enjoyed it being presented in such a dignified way. Happy Day!! :-) For more music to 'stir the soul'. Thanks

Your choice of music is just perfect. Very pleasant to the ear ... great choice of concert hall!! Thank you.

Sunday concert was absolutely great, very enjoyable with excellent selection of program. We enjoyed singing "Screw Guns"

***Requested tunes:
Pirates of the Caribbean
Scipio
Thin Red Line
Victory at Sea****

I always enjoy your concerts. My late husband was RAF and if he were here – would enjoy them so much

Thank you for this wonderful concert. My father, a Veteran, passed away in January, but I feel he was present with us today enjoying your wonderful music.

This is one of the best concerts I have attended!

I always enjoy your concerts. Lots of good marches – it's great to see "band soloists". Just a good variety. Your concerts continue to get better each time. Congratulations and thanks for a great afternoon.

I'm listening & imagining actions w/it. I'm in awe right now. Big smiles! I'm very impressed with the whole get up – selections & conducting, etc.

What you choose to play resonates in many ways.

** ed. You have been heard, sir, and this selection will be featured at this year's Spring Concert in recognition of the Canadian Navy's 100th Anniversary!*

In The Spotlight: Private Becky Summers

Born in Ottawa in July, 1990 – only 15 minutes behind her twin, Peter – Becky is the youngest of six children, and the only girl. In 1996, her father retired as a Commander in the Navy from the Directorate of Military Training and Education, and moved the family to White Rock, BC. There, Becky took up piano lessons and, at the age of 13, began playing trumpet at her local high school. Being an active member of both the jazz and concert bands, Becky also decided to start taking private lessons on trumpet.

Her father's acceptance of a new job offer led the family to Victoria in 2006. Here, Becky and her twin decided, due in part to the reputation of its music program, to attend Oak Bay High School. She continued her studies on trumpet, but this time with David Michaux, a member of the Victoria Symphony. He was, as Becky soon learned, also a former member of the 5th Field Band, having served with us for seven years! Soon after, Becky successfully auditioned for the School of Music at the University of Victoria, and finished off her final high school year as a soloist at her graduating ceremony.

During her first year at UVic, Becky learned of the Ceremonial Guard and decided to audition for it. She, along with several others now with the 5th Field Band, won her audition; she

was successfully recruited into the Primary Reserve, and then promptly whisked off to Ottawa to undergo the required Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) course. After that was completed, she spent the remainder of her summer performing with the CG Band. "I love the opportunities that have opened up since I joined the military as a musician," she says. "Not many of my friends can say they've performed for the Prime Minister of Canada or the Emperor of Japan!"

Since her return from CG last August, Private Summers has been very active with the 5th Field Band, performing, for example, with the brass quintet in addition to all of her other regular duties. She was also tasked as Bugler for two of the official ceremonies that the band supported last Remembrance Day – you likely heard her during television coverage of the God's Acre service on the news that evening!

Having demonstrated her abilities in the fall, she was further asked to represent the regiment as Bugler in support of the First Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, for the January funeral service in Victoria for Lieutenant Andrew Richard Nuttall, killed by an Improvised Explosive Device in Kandahar Province on December 23rd, 2009.

Despite such sobering realities, she is enjoying a great year with the regiment and is looking forward to performing with the Ceremonial Guard for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Canada this coming summer.

