

Events Calendar

Annual Spring Concert

Sunday, April 10th – 2:30 p.m.

Victoria Conservatory of Music

An afternoon of beautiful music featuring soloists and ensembles from within the band! Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to the Fifth BC Artillery RCA Foundation.

Victoria Day Gun Salute

Monday, May 23rd – Noon

Victoria Inner Harbour

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

Last Night Of The Proms!

Friday, June 3rd – 8:00 p.m.

Royal Theatre

The band joins forces with the Rotary Club of Victoria to present "A Salute To The Military". This evening of music will feature the Rotary Club Choir, with special guest Richard Margison. Tickets available at the Royal and McPherson Box Offices.

Canada Day Celebrations

Friday, July 1st – 11:30 a.m.

Fort Rodd Hill

The band and guns help celebrate Canada's 144th birthday in the West Shore!

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 2011, 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

One of the great pleasures I have enjoyed as a military musician has been the opportunity to perform throughout this magnificent country of ours. Whether gazing down upon the great Saint Lawrence from the boardwalk of the Chateau Frontenac, or looking up to the majestic Rockies from the band shell nestled along the edge of the Town of Banff, I recall how very lucky I felt to be doing something I so enjoyed, and in surroundings so iconically Canadian.

Memories speak to particular times and places. They, in turn, naturally invoke memories of people associated with them – as it is ultimately *the people* who bring memories back to life! A circuitous comment, I know, but we can never forget that it is through the people we encounter – be they from the past, present, or still in our future – that we are all ultimately connected. Although that was hardly a new thought, the point was brought home when I read this issue's contributions from Sergeant Maureen Byrne and Master Corporal Jonathan Eng. For me, the connections were twofold: some nostalgia associated with the annual Tattoo in Nova Scotia, and my decision in 1994 to settle down in Victoria. Upon my arrival I was invited to join the Swiftsure Big Band, whose trumpet section included the very gentleman referred to in Maureen's feature. It's a small world!

Permit me to offer you a more tangible connection, if you will, in the form of an event which has been taking shape for over a year, and which will finally see fruition in just two months time. As many readers will know, the

5th Field Band helped continue the tradition of providing quality military music to the community during Naden Band's absence between 1994 and 1997. By far the most popular of these events was the annual Christmas Concert held at the Royal Theatre in support of the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Unfortunately, *The Fifth* has not performed there since that time ... until now! If you've not already seen the flyers and handbills, we are pleased to announce that we have partnered with the Rotary Club of Victoria in a fund-raising concert dubbed "Last Night Of The Proms – A Salute To The Military". With proceeds going to the Mustard Seed and Military Family Resource Centre, this is a unique performance you will not want to miss!

Other *must see* performances will include, of course, our upcoming Annual Spring Concert. Those of you on our mailing list will be receiving a letter of invitation shortly. Whether on our list or not, however, I encourage all of you to grab a friend and come out for a wonderful afternoon of music making – *and make a new connection!*

Inspiration!

by Master Corporal Jonathan Eng

I recall going with my family to the Esquimalt Arena and being impressed with the variety of showcase acts at the Military Tattoo. One display that I particularly remember was the line of drummers, with their glow in the dark sticks, performing with such energy and rhythmic precision. Of course, my father was a student studying his TQ6 drums at the School of Music at the time ... so with all these influences, it's not surprising to have had an interest in drum corps as a young tot.

In November 2009 I attended my first Percussive Arts Society convention, and it was here that I met Major (Ret.) George P. Carroll. He had wonderful Rope Tension Drums along with various books of drumming history on display. This seemed like the best opportunity to satisfy my curiosity about drum corps and the construction of these beautiful drums. Through this meeting I learned that he hailed from Nova Scotia, had also attended the old School of Music in my hometown of Esquimalt, and was once a member of the Band of the Black Watch. The connection was made!

Last month I had the wonderful opportunity to work and study with Mr. Carroll in Alexandria, Virginia, not far from Washington, D.C. We began our day with field drumming lessons, working on style and interpretation. Lessons also continued throughout the day – while we shared a meal, he generously shared his wealth of knowledge of military history, particularly Field Drumming and the role of the drummer within the unit. I was also able to attend and participate in some of Mr. Carroll's ensembles, namely, the "Swing Command", a 16 piece swing band, and the National Concert Band. It's hard to pinpoint my favourite part of the trip, but three experiences stand out:

1. Playing for the Mayor of Alexandria, Virginia, while dressed in traditional colonial uniform as part of a small drum and fife corps.
2. Visiting the Old Guard Fife and Drum at the historic stables in Fort Myer, Virginia. This group had been started by Mr. Carroll, and celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2010.
3. Building a rope tension drum from scratch alongside George. This was a priceless experience – there's a real sense of pride when playing on a drum that I made!

This week was the best experience I could imagine to learn about traditional field drumming. While reminiscing about his life as a musician, performing for President Kennedy's inauguration, or even while playing on a practice pad late in the evening, George displays a youthfulness that belies his years. I'll be forever grateful to him for sharing his time, patience and knowledge.

More information on George Carroll can be found at: <http://www.cwfdalumni.org/History.htm>

In The Spotlight: Sergeant Maureen Byrne

Born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Maureen ("Mo", to her friends) comes from a musical family. "The focal point of entertainment at my mother's home during the Depression was the piano," she recalls, "so I knew from a young age that music would be a part of my life." After the requisite piano lessons, she was offered the opportunity to play a band instrument – and found herself part of an ensemble! Moving at first from flute to clarinet, she made her final switch to oboe in high school, where she developed a keen interest in playing Baroque music.

After graduation, Maureen obtained an entrance scholarship to Dalhousie University and studied oboe with Anne Krabill. During this time she performed with several orchestras in the Maritimes, and took advantage of many freelance opportunities, including the premiere performance of Steve Tittle's *Blessings*, a work for choir, oboe, and strings (Steve is, coincidentally enough, currently a resident of Victoria!) She also attended the Goethe Institute to further her German language studies, the Banff School of Fine Arts, and was selected to perform with the Collegium Musikum Schloss Pommersfelden, Germany.

After graduating from Dalhousie, Maureen studied at the Staatliche Hochschule fuer Musik Westfalen-Lippe in Detmold. Here, alongside oboists from all parts of the globe, she participated in the master class of Helmut Winschermann, soloist and musical director of the Deutsche Bachsolisten."Hearing all of them

play was an education in itself," she says.

Returning to Canada, Maureen decided to audition for the Canadian Forces. She was accepted, completed her basic training at Canadian Forces Base Cornwallis, and was posted to the Stadacona Band in Halifax.



Working under the baton of Naval Lieutenant Hugh McCullough (who later served briefly as Director of Music for the Fifth), her highlights during this time included the ceremonies marking the Dieppe Invasion, and the Nova Scotia International Tattoo.

1997 took her to Ottawa with her husband, Dave – who started his military career in the 1980's with the Fifth as a tuba player! While there, Maureen instructed at the School of Music at CFB Borden, and volunteered with the Governor General's Foot Guard Band. Her biggest challenge, however, was with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra and its performance of Igor Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*.

Her husband's latest posting has recently brought her to Victoria, where she can be heard with the Sooke Philharmonic, the Victoria Symphony, the Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Ensemble Pacifica – and, of course *The Fifth!* Her civilian job is in the dental industry, but that's another story...