

Events Calendar

Annual Spring Concert

Sunday, April 15th – 2:30 p.m.

Victoria Conservatory of Music

An afternoon of wonderful music from Byrd and Beethoven to Sousa! Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to the Fifth (BC) Artillery Regiment (RCA) Foundation.

Victoria Day Gun Salute

Monday, May 21st – Noon

Provincial Legislature

The band performs in support of the regiment's guns as they fire the traditional noon salute. Don't forget your earplugs!

Canada Day Celebrations Sunday, July 1st – 11:30 a.m. Fort Rodd Hill

The band and guns help celebrate Canada's 145th birthday on 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. Auditions are now being booked for September 2012. If interested, 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

A year has now passed since the last issue of our newsletter was published, so it would appear that we have some catching up to do! And what a year it's been –

Time really does seem to fly when you're having fun. In considering music for next month's Spring Concert, for example, William Walton's glorious *Crown Imperial* was recommended. Performed not only at the coronations of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II, but also at the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in 2011, this was quite appropriate. "But, didn't we just do that a couple of years ago," I asked? Oddly enough, no. But, we *did* perform it back in 2003 when we celebrated the Regiment's 125th Anniversary! More than just "a couple" of years, then. Ah well ...

Those of you who've been following the band will have no doubt observed a good number of personnel changes this past year, and this seems to be an appropriate opportunity to recognize them. Farewells go out to *Master Warrant Officer Dan Moses* and *Sergeant Vicky Killion*, both of whom served with *The Fifth* for the better part of a decade, as well as *Sergeant Maureen Byrne*, *Master Corporal Michel Wade* and *Corporal Sheila MacMillan*, whose lives and loves have now taken them back to Ontario. All unquestioningly made their mark on this band during their time here, and we wish them our

best on their current and future pursuits.

Now filling some of those vacancies, please welcome to the band *Privates Robyn Ternent* (Horn), and *Catherine Clougher* (Tenor Sax) – our most recent recruit! 2011 also saw Euphoniumist extraordinaire *Sergeant Ameer Ballantyne* – now a full fledged mother! – and the talented oboist *Rainer Roth* rejoin us. Rounding out the group of fresh faces are *Bronwyn Posynick* (Clarinet), *Eryn Beddoes* (Oboe and Alto Sax), *Sebastian Harper* (Trombone), and *Corporal Holly Dronyk* (Tuba) – who is currently transferring in from the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA.

Last but not least, *Master Corporal Krystal Morrison* is temporarily augmenting the Governor General's Foot Guards Band in Ottawa, while *Master Corporal Jonathan Eng* – made forever (in)famous for his feats of prestidigitation at last year's concert – has followed up his recent six month callout with the Naden Band by accepting a temporary position with the Royal Canadian Artillery Band in Edmonton. Well done! We very much look forward to their return, and will undoubtedly be captivated with their tales and experiences from afar!

Sergeants Visit The Windy City

by Sergeant Ameer Ballantyne

In December, Sergeant Bob Cadwallader and I had the opportunity to attend a very prestigious and international event – The 65th Annual Midwest Clinic. We travelled to Chicago, Illinois to attend this well-known clinic which attracts participants from around the globe.

The purpose of the clinic is to promote music education both in its efforts to raise the standards of music education as well as to assist directors and musicians with new techniques and methods. The annual attendance is usually over 15,000, and includes professional musicians, school music teachers, composers and arrangers, students – and military musicians just like us! Participants have a variety of options when it comes to planning how to spend their four days at the conference. They can attend some of the many concerts or clinics, or stroll through the exhibit hall that has displays from over 350 exhibitors. The concerts are varied as well and there is a great international presence. Everything from classical symphonic performances to small Dixieland quartets – not to mention large military band ensembles! More than eighty clinicians offer their guidance, support, and inspiration covering all musical genres and all facets of instrumental music. As a teacher in my civilian life, I found this experience to be especially rewarding.

Generally speaking, there is a large military presence at the conference where many of the featured concerts are those performed by prestigious military groups. The exhibit hall also was a place for the groups to set up a display, hand out sample CDs and speak to the public about their ensemble. We had several opportunities to speak with the men and women of these ensembles. It was a great feeling of camaraderie as they share the same passion and have similar experiences as those of us in military bands in Canada. Speaking of military presence, we were also able to connect with fellow Canadian military musicians while there (it was easy to spot the Canadian military uniforms!). Both reserve and regular force bands were represented by members at the conference. It was a great opportunity to make connections across the country.

One of the highlights of the conference was the evening performance on the first day. The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own” performed an exciting concert that ended in an enthusiastic standing ovation. Personally, I loved that concert! It was absolutely flawless and the musicianship was outstanding. The concert selections evoked many emotions. I was truly inspired! We attended other concerts as well, with some favourites including *The Japan Tubists*, *The Chicago Brass Band*, and *The Boston Brass*.

Many thanks to our Commanding Officer, LCol Wisdahl, for securing the funding to make this happen. We were both very appreciative of this opportunity, and definitely benefited from attending this event. Hopefully similar opportunities will be available for others in the future.

More information on the Midwest Clinic can be found by visiting: <http://www.midwestclinic.org>

In The Spotlight: Corporal Amy Sandford



Amy was born into a large family of musicians in Toronto, Ontario. Her mother played piano and her father played sax with navy bands across Canada. Her sister and three brothers all played instruments, one of whom is a professional violinist in Toronto. Being raised in this environment, it was no surprise that Amy undertook musical studies on Horn in high school, then went on to get her degree in music at the University of Victoria in 1992.

It was while she was attending UVic that friends encouraged her to come out to the 5th Field Band rehearsals and see if this was something she would enjoy. Well, she has been a serving member of the band since 1990 and looks forward to many more years with it. “I was curious and a little leary about the band, especially that it was military,” recalls Amy, “but after a few rehearsals, it really seemed like a fun place to be – and the bonus was the paycheck at the end of the month!”

In her civilian life, Amy is a pipe organ technician. She maintains and tunes pipe organs in

Victoria and up island and you will find her behind the façade pipes many days of the week tweaking and tuning some of the finest pipe organs in British Columbia! This is her dream job that she has wanted to do ever since she began to listen and appreciate the huge organs in Toronto where she grew up. She knew one day that she would work on them and finally, five years ago, her chance came and she began working with Grant Smalley, who is the local pipe organ builder and maintainer. “Nothing gives me more pleasure than the sounds and workings of a pipe organ,” she says. “There is nothing like being inside a large mechanical machine that produces such incredible music! I am constantly in awe of the past and present builders that have created such beauty in sight and sound!”

In her free time, Amy plays French horn with the Civic Orchestra of

Victoria and occasionally plays in various local gigs. If she is not tuning up a pipe organ, you may find her on long rides on her motorcycle!

