



Nepean Concert Band - President's Report - 2010-2011

Graham Lindsey

The past year has very much been one of building. This growth started with membership, we've increased our numbers across most sections and we've started to build a band that is keenly interested in performing, whether it's for seniors at a retirement lodge or in preparation for our next season which at the end of the band's 2010-11 year was still about a month away.

We also arranged for our first year of concerts at Andrew Haydon Park that weren't backed in any way by the City. The band responded to last year's Start-Stop-Continue survey with strong support for pushing ahead with the concerts even without the extra support, and we did just that. I am looking forward to returning to the park in years to come, because those concerts are some of my favourite all year: playing outdoors for our friends and family (and the requisite seniors who dance and love the music so much).

Over the past year I was pleased to see how the band worked on more challenging repertoire and performed that music not only during "formal" concerts, but at Andrew Haydon Park (where we typically play lighter fare). This more challenging repertoire really gave our audience something to listen to that's different from what they might have expected. Add to that the fact that almost everyone responded very favourably to news of the concert series, and it was a very positive year for musical growth as an ensemble, and individually. Thank you for that, and I'm looking forward to more in the coming year!

I'm very proud of the band for making the effort to learn some challenging music in relatively short order for the Japan Tsunami/Earthquake/Nuclear Disaster Relief concert, and thank you to Kyoko for organizing that particular concert. It's always terrible when tragedy hits people, regardless of where that may be, however seeing how people responded so quickly and unconditionally was another of the events I'll remember for a long time.

The new band uniforms are one aspect of the organization that did not get enough attention, in my opinion. We were busy planning a series of concerts, playing every second week in Andrew Haydon Park, and eventually we got into the next year's concert season... all very positive things for the band, however all of which conspired against timely action toward uniforms for all. The uniform survey was designed simply, to get as many peoples' votes as we could, and we got a staggering number (something like 96%) of responses from people on our mailing list. Thank you so much for making the survey so comprehensive. We now have two uniforms to arrange funding for, and then implement, which will be my #1 priority in the new year.

To that end, we will be starting the search for sponsors. Survey results said that members were comfortable spending between \$40-50 on uniforms, and we will try to keep that cost lower. Given a contribution of \$40 from each person, we will still be looking to spend a fair amount on purchasing uniforms. If you have an idea as to an organization that might be able to contribute \$6500 in exchange for getting their logo embroidered on the arm of our casual uniform (NB: this will give them free advertising at our concerts and wherever band members walk happen to be while wearing their shirt - and with the good quality shirts we'll be getting, that could be quite a

number of years), please let us know. We will also be exploring grants and other government funding as other options so that corporate sponsorship isn't the only way to go.

As I've said in previous reports of this nature, I want to make sure that everyone in the band feels like they can approach any member of the executive with concerns they may have. If it's something we can help with, we're here to do just that. If you have questions of a specific nature (ie: music committee), some of us may refer you to another person or group, but we do want to hear what you've got to say. If you have a problem or a request, please let us know - and if you like what you're seeing, we love to hear that, too!

I also wanted to thank the members of the executive. It's been another superb year, and 2011-2012 is really shaping up too. Robert vacated his position in September and has been the driving force in arranging concerts for the past number of years. J.P. is currently in sunny Florida (we aren't even slightly jealous) and sends his best, but he will be warmer than us until April, and as a result has decided to step down as Equipment Manager. He created a list of percussion instruments owned by the band so we can update his list by taking inventory every year, and the band is a much better place for having his help in that role. Ruth Mendell was on the executive as the Assistant (to the) General Manager, and with various commitments she has decided to step down. Ruth was organizing the annual CentrepoinTE Theatre concerts since before I became aware that a band executive was more than a group of people who liked to hold up rehearsal for a half rehearsal every January... but I digress... and the band owes her a huge thank-you for all her work. Thank you to all of the outgoing members of the executive.

That leaves Warren, who has done tireless work to arrange the music - including the first-ever "MegaPull™", where he took everyone's music and organized it, tracking missing parts, keeping an eye on music that needed to be replaced, etc., and Janice, who has kept all our meetings in order. It may sound like a trifling thing, but at meetings, a bunch of us talk about some great ideas and without Janice... well, we'd have great ideas, but they'd only be in our heads, and I'm a drummer, so that would only last until I was distracted by something shiny! :)

And one more thing, I would like to extend my personal thanks to Julia and Eric, who really went above and beyond the call by stepping-up and taking over for Robert when he vacated the General Manager's position in September. Eric and Julia were responsible for the lion's share of the work required to start a concert series from scratch. In a brilliant move, they found a great venue (City View United Church) that we could use for all four concerts in our series, so we didn't have to move from venue to venue. They also did a huge amount of other logistical planning required long before a concert can even be announced, let alone promoted and accomplished.

Here's to a great 2010-2011 season, and to many more to come!