



Graham Lindsey - President's Report (2011-12)

The time period from October 1st 2011 to September 30th 2012 was a very positive year. The main thing that changed from years past was the concert season, comprised of four major concerts throughout the year, instead of one major Spring concert at a church.

Over the last number of years we've heard that members wanted to have a better organized rehearsal experience, with rehearsal lists, and of course concert set lists to ensure we can all practice our parts before concerts. This growth is happening, and it's a big cooperation between Terry and various members of the executive. It takes time to make this sort of change, and as I see it, we'll always have something to strive for, so these same steps that are happening will continue to happen as rehearsals become better for all.

We also added some new repertoire to our list (required to program four concerts a year), and thanks goes to the Music Selection Committee for making the four concerts (Cowboys, Aliens, and Things that go Bump in the Night / Christmas Through the Ages / Marches in March / Around the World) a huge success from a musical standpoint. We had lots of comments from NCB musicians, summer members, and even a few past (retired) band members, and sometimes about pieces that were different from what the band has played in years past.

The summer was a critical one, because it was our second year without any City of Ottawa backing (either funding or promotion) for our Andrew Haydon Park concert series. In fact, the band was required to pay a small sum each concert to obtain a permit to use the park. Our four season concerts helped to fund that, and meant we didn't have to pass-the-hat as we had done once before. Each Andrew Haydon Park gig contained a combination of music used throughout the year's concert season (drawing from every one of our four concerts, even Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring from our Christmas concert!) and some of our more traditional summer fare (pieces that are easier to pull together without as much rehearsal time, allowing for biweekly concerts).

On June 29th we went to Bath, Ontario to play a concert as a part of the 200th anniversary commemoration of the War of 1812. We played the 1812 Overture with 5 cannons and a number of other firearms being fired in time with the music - and I shot a video that you can find on YouTube. We were very well received, and I've heard many people who wanted to return to Bath as an annual gig!

Our Lake George concert was also a big success, using some of the more interesting of the pieces from the concert series. We also received some

great feedback about our performance, which is generally seen as a higher level performance than a number of the other bands. Our ability to strive for more diverse repertoire is being recognized by others, and I think that's another thing each member of the band can be very proud of! For those keeping score, the flavors (sic) at Martha's Chicken Ice Cream included apple pie, coconut, and pumpkin. If you don't know what I'm going on about, talk with someone who's been to Lake George and enjoys soft serve ice cream.

Nearing the end of the 2011-12 year, we sized everyone for shirts that would be ordered early in the 2012-13 year (for reasons of practicality, primarily making sure we had everyone fitted). Our supplier for the formal uniform was no longer available to us, and we had heard some good feedback from the band regarding the white shirts and how it was easier to have a new or returning member wear a white shirt than trying to get the right shade of our maroon shirts.

On a personal level, I'm thoroughly impressed with how band members have worked individually and as a band to make for the first-ever concert season, our Andrew Haydon Park concerts, and the Lake George concert a huge success on every level.

Special thanks go out to my colleagues on the executive: Julia (treasurer) looks after all sorts of things like collecting dues, making sure the executive (with people who are sometimes not so financially-minded) know exactly where we stand, and you may see her as the person asking for money, but it's so much more than that: without someone like her, we wouldn't have had the direction needed to do the four concerts, and she acted as co-General Manager (with Eric) by organizing the concert series and generally going above and beyond; Warren (librarian) who works quietly in the background to make sure you have all your parts, and Janice (secretary) who is another person working quietly to organize more things than I can track to make sure the band runs smoothly. Members of the Executive who will not be returning after this year's AGM include: Eric (membership) - he's the guy who welcomes new band members, creating and maintaining the band's mailing list (organizing the list to include musicians' sections, whether they're a regular, summer, occasional, or past members), as mentioned above, Eric "co-General Managed" the band with Julia for the year and was the point person behind the Lake George concert, and he's been a tremendously motivated guy all 'round; Kim Vrieling (equipment) who has been a fantastic resource for the percussion section, booking the moving van for our series concerts and helping before and after concerts and rehearsals to move the percussion gear (even more important when Warren and I are off doing Executive stuff and leaving one or two people to pack away all the

instruments we own!). To Eric and Kim, thank you so much for helping to make the executive a great place to be!

Graham Lindsey February 2013