

## Graham Lindsey - President's Report (2015-16)

Last season was the Nepean Concert Band's 40th anniversary. Founded in 1975, it has been a mainstay in the community: we are likely best known for our concerts at Andrew Haydon Park, and we've performed at venues from local museums and seniors' residences to churches and large concert venues - not to mention outdoor venues like the Tulip Festival and in the last eight or so years at Lake George. We're one of the only bands in town that continues through the summer, and many players from other bands across town come to join our ranks for the summer concerts. I'm proud to be a member of the band, and to be the president of an organization that gives back to the community - but there's always room for improvement, and that's what we've been working toward. Thankfully the rest of the Band Executive have been on the job too, and contribute lots to make it a great place for everyone to play each week.

We've modified the concert season to have only one concert in the Spring, but we have yet to see how that works (the one concert is scheduled for March 26th 2017), and the general idea is that we want to have more time to prepare for the concert and we could even fit in a senior's residence concert or two - to continue our outreach.

One potential concern that we've raised during announcements just before break is that revenue from three concerts could be lower than from four concerts, so we need each band member to sell a few tickets so we're not just playing to our parents or our spouses (or for people with only one spouse, them too). We're volunteer-based, and you might think we've got a large team doing promotion... but it's really only two people, and that's why we need you: tell your friends, if you're on the Facebook and the Twitter, share the events that are created, share posts from our pages, and tell everyone you know. We're playing some really great music - and at a high level. I'm proud of the music we're playing and we need everyone to spread the word. If we're playing one fewer concerts, we need to have 1/3 more people attending each gig.

Last year at this time we ran a logo competition people submitted their logos and we had 16 submissions - in the end it was a head-to-head match between two, and the following were the two that were in contention. Ruth Winter submitted the maroon one (left), and the logo with the bandshell (right) is one I created. In the end the bandshell logo was selected as the 40th anniversary logo, and we started a swag order (shirts, pencils, hoodies, etc.) and expect that to be ready early in 2017. For technical reasons, I needed to create a square version of the new logo for some of the merch.



The four concerts last year were: "Planes, Trains and Automobiles", our annual Christmas concert: "Christmas is in the Air", "In the Key of Sea", and "The Pioneer Spirit".

Planes, Trains & Automobiles was a travel-themed concert and contained a good mix of music including Caravan, Flight, Fantasy of Flight (flying bicycles, of course), Sensei's Ride on the Cherry Blossom Express (a model train), On the Track (horses, trains, or just a fast xylophone), and Buggie Ride (buggie travel, of course), to name a few.

Our Christmas concert was performed without a guest artist, however we tried our best to find a choir to share the bill. Performing with another band has historically been a challenge due to the setup time required between performances (we've been working to keep the concert to an absolute maximum of 2hrs including intermission) - and if anyone knows of a good choir we could partner with, the Exec would love to hear from you. We've identified our ideal partnership as: a choir, with youth involvement (many love to have children singing, and we often get parents out to the concert too) and they should be a higher level choir, because we want to feature groups not unlike NCB.

In the Key of Sea was a nautically-themed concert, and I heard more positive comments about Of Sailors and Whales than most other pieces we've played in the past several years - this was because we managed to paint a picture with our music, as well as having John Litster as the narrator (thanks to Terry for inviting him aboard!). We maintained a good musical balance by including movie music (Pirates of the Caribbean), choral (Eternal Father, Strong to Save) and concert band repertoire (Parade of the Tall Ships).

The Pioneer Spirit was a tribute to pioneers of all types, from literal pioneers (The Pioneers), sci-fi pioneers (Where No One Has Gone Before), cinematic pioneers (The Pixar Spirit), travel pioneers (Three Extraordinary Journeys), and more.

We played the MDR Festival (Madonna della Risurrezione - the church on Fisher Ave.) for another year and have entertained another sometimes-attentive audience. We do appreciate that they continue to have us back year-after-year. We didn't play as much Italian music this year, which meant we could polish a small number of pieces - and then use repertoire from our concert season (which was already well-rehearsed).

Our concerts at Andrew Haydon Park started in late May and ended with only one concert in August due to the previously reported scheduling issue where another group had been grandfathered into AHP rental the third Wednesday of the month through the summer. This was not the case when we started playing in 1985, however last year

our contact with the City looked back in their records as far as she could (it went back to 2000 when Nepean was incorporated into City of Ottawa) - and that year the other group booked the slot. We've attempted to explain our situation with the office staff (namely that if we can't have every second week, it's confusing to our attendees saying "come back in three weeks, when we start the actual bi-weekly concerts")... but they were very clear that no amount of reasoning or discussion would change their minds.

Lake George was a lot of fun with the addition of our friends in the Concert Band of Kanata to the band hotel, Travelodge Lake George. We had a great time before, and suspect we'll be headed back in 2017 (rumour has it CBoK will as well!).

Our assistant conductor, Mary Blais, helped out a lot over the year including nearly two months from mid-July to the end of August when Terry was taking some well-deserved holiday time at his new cottage on PEI. As band president, I naturally had to travel to check it out, for research purposes of course, and can confirm it exists (in case you're madly flipping to the 2015-16 budget, I payed my own travel). Also, I arrived really late so the visit was all of ten minutes, the day before their family traveled back to Ontario just before Labour Day. Get back on track, Graham... back on track. So, again, special thanks to Mary for being our Summer Fearless Leader when our regular Fearless Leader couldn't be there. Mary also has subbed-in when Terry has had other commitments (parent-teacher night, directing etc.) and we're very thankful for Mary's being available and wanting to work with us!

In the last few years, Cairine Thomas has been involved in the organization of concerts, and I personally love to see what she does - and the band appreciates it a whole lot. The Pioneer Spirit saw a realistic stagecoach constructed just before the concert (thanks to Pam & Jean-Guy for the construction & assembly) and whenever Cairine has fun preparing a concert, the actual concert is a whole lot of fun to play and watch!

Jenn Brinkhurst has been doing the work to get the NCB-branded clothing and objects (pencils and more), and has been working with our printer to get everything in order. Thanks to Jenn for her work on that front!

About two years ago I updated the website - I gave edit capabilities section leaders the ability to edit the list of people in their section, so if you're not listed (or if for whatever reason you're listed and aren't playing with NCB), please contact your section leader and they can remove you from the list. I'm getting busy enough with work that updating the website is something I need to move to other people. Julia used to update the photo section, and when she left for Vancouver Stephen Baskey took over the photo responsibility (thanks, Stephen!). If you have photos from concerts, you can

send them to [photos@nepeanconcertband.com](mailto:photos@nepeanconcertband.com) and like magic they'll be added to the site. If it was left to me, I'd have the best of intentions but it would take months to happen. This way the site will be much more current, and I'm trying to delegate more responsibility where appropriate.

In the last year we've continued to expand the role of the section leader, and if you've been asked if you're attending a concert up to two months before a concert, that's a sign that it's working. Also, a reminder that if you have an issue within your section I'd ask you to go to your section leader. If they can't help (or if the issue is with them), come to me if it's anything other than music, or your section leader can go to the conductor and they can resolve things. We're trying to make this more efficient, and we appreciate your helping to make that a success!

Speaking as the percussion section leader, member of the Music Committee and band President, we have a lot of people who help out a lot. Dave Oulton continues to help set up the percussion instruments weekly after he sets up the chairs – and he has been at the church to help coordinate the setup before every concert. Tanya, Jenn, Pierre, Michelle (and Richard), Julia and Jim, Terry, Rhonda, Isaac, Linda, Shaun, James, Don, Warren, Becca and Joe, Dan Yau and Mary – they all helped move instruments before or after a concert or rehearsal, and I can't express how much we appreciate it. **\*\*I'm missing people, I know it - and I'm very sorry, and even more appreciative!\*\*** Everyone who helps after rehearsals is a huge help too - it's simple to pack up your instrument and get out in time for our 9:45pm deadline... but as a percussionist somehow it takes longer! Gary Thomas who helps to set up the church and runs our bake sales along with Jean-Guy Jacob (Pam's Jean-Guy, of course), Jim and Dylan (Karen Craven's husband and son, respectively). Warren and Doug, our music library gurus who are an essential resource for the band - a group that requires their knowledge and organization. Barb Lamb, who sends cards on behalf of the band, sometimes without our knowing that a card is warranted until after it arrives. Sharon Flack helps Julia collect money at rehearsals so Julia can do other things that need to be done. Pat & Keith Lindsey and Jim for collecting donations at AHP. Dave Oulton for recording our concerts at City View United Church and posting them so quickly after concerts for us to hear - usually the same day. Everyone on the Music Committee (including Chris Thiessen, the committee chair) for helping to make our concert season so successful, and all section leaders who let me know how many people we can expect in each section for the concert. Karen Craven has been doing the band's publicity for a couple of years now, and we've been getting calls asking details about the concert. We've been advertising in a number of free online websites, as well as the Ottawa Citizen's concert listings - so thanks to Karen for a job well done!

As many will know, Julia Stanley was the band's treasurer for over a decade. She joined the band after moving to Ottawa from Halifax, and she worked in town as a Chartered Accountant. On the strength of her credentials she became treasurer within six months of joining (February 9th 2005 - which she just texted me), and has always kept the band heading in the right financial direction. In July she and her husband Jim (who is also an honorary member of the percussion section and operated our ticket desk for concerts over the last four or five years) moved to Vancouver where Jim had accepted a new position at work. Despite being told she could attend band via Skype and there were many different branches of TD Canada Trust where she could do the paperwork, she decided it would be a good idea to hand the reigns over to someone else. Julia remains a good friend to many NCB members and I couldn't ask for a better friend and colleague. We certainly miss Julia at in the flute section and Exec meetings, including her keen involvement and positive attitude - and we wish her the very best as she gets established on the west coast.

To fill Julia's shoes we welcomed Rosemary Judge to the executive. She was voted-in at a general meeting last summer. She began in July 2016 and has a background in public accounting (over 20 years), and is a senior accountant with KPMG. I'm assured that doesn't refer to her age, rather the seniority she holds at the company. We're in good hands as we move forward, which means I will continue to pay my travel to the East Coast.

The Executive is a hard-working group of people and we do our best to make NCB a fun place to play. It takes a lot of energy, and I like to thank the executive members every year. Linda Taylor is our General Manager and she books concerts, sells tickets, and does whatever is needed to keep things moving - plus, she is among the first to ask if the percussion section needs a hand (which we often do, given we've got three members and all three are on the Exec). Rosemary is our new treasurer this year and keeps track of finances, writes cheques, and keeps everyone on track. Warren is our tireless librarian who devotes hours and hours to what we've called "the MegaPull™", where people put their music in order in the folders and Warren somehow sorts through everything and we don't end up spending 45 minutes putting our music back in folders - it is just done, and I know everyone in the band appreciates Warren's work, even if they don't know he does it. Pam is our membership person, welcoming people to band, keeping track of the phone/email list and announcing the latest news at break. Rebecca (Becca) is our equipment manager, and she books the truck so we don't have to ask for fifteen vans to take our gear to gigs... but every couple of years we hit a day where the truck has already been booked - and that means we have to call for fifteen (okay, three) vans to move all our gear. Peter Vogelsang was added to the

Exec the very last day before this fiscal year began, and he's our secretary - meaning he writes all the meeting minutes, and helps to keep us organized and on track.

Every year I try my very best to ensure that I haven't forgotten anyone from the thank-you list, and it's an extensive one. If I've missed anyone, I apologize for the oversight - and thank you so much for helping to make the Nepean Concert Band so much fun!

Thank you once again for another outstanding year!

Graham Lindsey  
President