



Keynotes

Our first newsletter

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Welcome to the first newsletter of the Muskoka Concert Band.

This newsletter is being published to all members of our family of musical ensembles that make up our organisation. They include, The Muskoka Concert Band, The Kingfisher Cottage Band, the Huntsville Harmony Youth Band and the Muskoka Big Band.

The newsletter will also be posted on our website and be available to the patrons, sponsors and interested parties for all the groups.

In “Keynotes” you will find reports and articles on all our ensembles as well as regular sections like musical smile of the month, arti-

cles on musical events and resources etc.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions on what you would like to see in “Keynotes” and of course contributions are always welcome.



History of The Kingfisher Cottage Band

In 2006, Kim Barlow and Kathy Kilbourne started an Adult Band Class of about a dozen students. Some were beginners and some were folks who hadn't played a note since high school.

Over the next ten years, many students came to learn and enjoy music together. Quite a few have gone on to play in the Bifocals Concert Band, Huntsville Community Band and the Muskoka Concert Band.

Upon advancing beyond the beginner stage, this 'band class' became the King-

fisher Cottage Band and has about 25 regular players. They enjoy a variety of classical, pop and show tunes and play several concerts each season.

Rehearsals are held on Mondays in Utterson and if you are interested in coming out to play, they are always looking for new members.

For more information call Kim Barlow at 705-789-8860.



Kingfisher Cottage Band Christmas Concert December 2016



Huntsville Harmony Youth Band

The Huntsville Harmony Youth Band, sponsored by the MCB, is in its second season now. We have a dozen students who enjoy music together on Tuesday afternoons at Huntsville Public School ((4:30-6:00pm) We are always looking for more students, from about grade 6-10 (ages 11-15 yrs.) preferably with some experience on a band instrument who would love to learn how to play in a band.

Alana Hall and Kim Barlow are the instructors for this ensemble.

Students are given a solid beginning to music through basic rudiments, breath control, posture, development of technique and receive individual coaching when needed; all required in order to play more efficiently.

Playing in an ensemble helps to foster teamwork skills and the art of musical style. We encourage creativity and musical expression while allowing students to voice their opinions and ask for assistance in a safe environment.

The HHYB has played concerts at Roger's Cove Retirement Home, the Active Living Centre in Huntsville, Grace and Speed in Gravenhurst, and the Stephenson Township Hall in Utterson, and at Huntsville Public School.

Our program offers FALL, WINTER and SPRING sessions each with 10 classes and one concert at the end of each session. Each session costs \$60 per student. If you know a student who is interested, contact Kim Barlow at huntsvilleharmonyb@gmail.com or 705-789-8860.



Member News

Merrill Perret has stepped down effective January 1, 2017 as President after serving faithfully for three years in that role.

Under his stewardship the band has had many highlights including increased audience attendance, improved financial results and increased membership.

Other highlights during his tenure were the creation of the Huntsville Harmony Youth Band and a large donation to support the building of the Huntsville band shell.

Merrill will be staying on as an ex-officio member of the board in the capacity of Past President.

The members of the Muskoka Concert Band are grateful to Merrill for all his efforts, his diligence, his open communications and his patience in the carrying out of his duties.





Upcoming Events

May 13 Muskoka Concert Band joint concert with the Metropolitan Silver Band. Active Living Centre, Huntsville

Project Clarke

2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Herbert L. Clarke, a renowned cornet player. Mr. Clarke was invited to Huntsville by C. O. Shaw, the owner of The Anglo-Canadian Leather Company. He wanted Herbert Clarke to direct the Anglo Canadian Leather Company Band. Mr. Clarke stayed in /Huntsville for 5 years and built the band into the finest company band in the world with over 65 members.

The Muskoka Concert Band is thinking about honouring this event with a recreation of the Anglo-Canadian Leather Company Band. We will supplement our ranks with talented and interested musicians from around Ontario and stage a concert using the same music charts that the band used 100 years ago.

We will keep you posted on our progress.



Herbert L. Clarke with C. O Shaw

Muskoka Concert Band News

The Muskoka Concert Band played its annual Christmas Concert at Trinity United Church in Huntsville on December 13th, 2016. This concert is very popular with our patrons as measured by the attendance and the standing ovation at the end. The concert was sponsored by Jay

Richardson, Lakes of Muskoka Realty. This is the fourth year in a row that Jay has sponsored our Christmas concert and we are grateful for her support.



Muskoka Concert Band has purchased a new trailer to move bulky percussion equipment around to various venues.





Rebirth of the Muskoka Big Band

It was in October of 2015 after my re-joining the Muskoka Concert Band that September following an 18 or so year pause that I got to thinking it would be nice to play swing again. The last time I'd played in a Big Band was in 1997. The Muskoka Big Band was under the direction of Dr. Lynn Sargeant back then and I had played with them for about 6 years. I really enjoyed that music. So much so that when I picked up my trombone again to play with the concert band I felt its absence.

I cornered our director, Neil Barlow, and asked him what he thought about the idea of putting together a Big Band and how he'd feel about being the director. Neil told me that if I could organize the band he'd direct it and give us access to his vast library of Big Band music. That's what I hoping to hear.

Everyone I talked to was enthusiastic about the idea. I figured since we were just doing for fun, it would not matter a whole lot if we could not fill on 17 seats of the standard Big Band. With that in mind I sent out an email in early 2016 to the Muskoka Concert Band email list asking if anyone was interested and got an amazing response. Within about 3 weeks we were a band including a rhythm section!

We started with a light rehearsal schedule of 4 sessions. It worked so well that we got a gig to play. We played to a large and enthusiastic crowd in the Bracebridge United Church in November. The audience loved it so much several people were dancing in the aisles of the sanctuary and we got a standing ovation at the end!

We are now looking toward the future with confidence in knowing that this rebirth has been a success. As we build our repertoire we will be taking on dances as well as concerts. I think Lynn Sargeant would have been happy!

Bill O'Neill





**MUSKOKA CONCERT
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“Keynotes” is a quarterly newsletter published for the members of the Muskoka Concert Band, The Kingfisher Cottage Band, The Huntsville Youth Harmony Band and The Muskoka Big Band.

If you have any questions about the content or wish to see changes in the newsletter, please contact the publisher.

