



B.T.T.B. ALUMNI

March 2006

Burlington Teen Tour Band Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

Homecoming reunion tickets on sale

Tickets for the 60th Anniversary Homecoming Reunion of the Burlington Boys & Girls Band and the Burlington Teen Tour Band are now on sale and can be ordered online at www.bttbalumni.ca/#tickets.

Because everyone is looking for something different out of the weekend we have put together several packages so you can get the best bang for your buck, but we are also offering events and merchandise for purchase a la carte.

The premium package "The Pride of Burlington" includes everything you'll need for the entire weekend including tickets to all events, your uniform for the parade, admission to the big Saturday night party featuring the Eddie Graf Band and a few surprise guests and a souvenir

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New Photo challenge



Do you remember this photograph? As promised, each month the Alumni Newsletter will feature a photograph from the many submitted to the 60th Anniversary Homecoming Reunion Committee and try to identify as many people as possible from it. For the results of last month's photo challenge please see page 9. Please send any responses to newsletter@bttbalumni.ca.

60 years of music at Hamilton Place

To mark the 60 years of its musical heritage the Teen Tour Band will be playing selections from the past six decades at its April 1st concert at Hamilton Place.

The Band, along with the Junior Redcoats and a number of special guests, will be reprising some favourite and memorable numbers that will launch the 60th Anniversary in style.

Tickets are available from the Music Centre (905) 335-7808, the Copps Coliseum Box office or Ticketmaster. For more information please visit www.teentourboosters.com.

Registration goal within sight



Where we all are. The Alumni Web site www.bttbalumni.ca includes a map that shows all the places around the world from which people have visited the site. Not surprisingly the largest number of page views come from North America, but we've also been checked out by people in Europe, Asia, New Zealand and the Caribbean.

The original goal of 500 former Band members registered at www.bttbalumni.ca is within sight. As of presstime 456 people are registered, an increase of 81 since last month.

The next few months are critical to increase our membership as much as possible to make the 60th Anniversary Homecoming Reunion a success. If you know of any former members of either the Boys & Girls Band or the Burlington

Teen Tour Band who haven't signed up yet please encourage them to do so.

The organizing committee will be looking for volunteers to help track down former members using old Band phone lists, personal contacts and the Internet. If you are interested in assisting or if you have materials that may help us find more unregistered Alumni please contact us at info@bttbalumni.ca.

Print to be unveiled at Hamilton Place

The wait is almost over. The original painting, done by Boys and Girls Band Alumnus John Newby, to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Band will be unveiled at the April 1st Hamilton Place concert.

Unframed prints are available from the Band Boosters for \$125 (taxes included). The print run is limited to 450 prints and once they're gone they're gone. The size of the



Artist John Newby

unframed print will be 16" x 24" (40 cm x 60 cm). In addition 15 Artist's Giclee Proofs are available for \$250 and five larger Giclee prints for \$350.

Sales of these limited edition signed and numbered prints are being sold as a fundraiser for the Band's upcoming trip to the Rose Bowl on Jan 1, 2008.

Order forms are available on our Web site <http://www.bttbalumni.ca/#JohnNewby>.

See www.bttbalumni.ca for the latest updates

As the reunion draws nearer our Web site www.bttbalumni.ca keeps getting updated with interesting and useful information and memories.

The first batch of 10 Wallace B. Wallace “winners” are online at

www.bttbalumni.ca/#wallaceb. If you know of any recipients who are not yet on the Web site please send us their name, year of award and why they won it to wallacebwallace@bttbalumni.ca

Most importantly you can now order your reunion tickets online using a downloadable

form. Remember, April 1st is coming soon and with it the early bird deadline for registration! www.bttbalumni.ca/#tickets.

The site is constantly being updated so make sure you check back often to enjoy some of the lighter moments of Band history.

Grace notes - Homecoming news in brief

Remembering Larry Duke

Former Boys and Girls Band member Larry Duke passed away on January 31st, 2007 in Sherwood Park Alberta. Larry's sister Sally, was also in Band, will be attending our June reunion.

Our Web site now features a memorials page for past Members who are no longer with us. It is available at www.bttbalumni.ca/#memorials.

Marching in the parade? Go online to pick your music

If you are planning on marching and playing in the Sound of Music parade and the Sunday night concert please make sure that you take the time to sign up for what part and what instrument you'll be playing. You can do this at www.bttbalumni.ca/#parade.

Also, for those who have already downloaded their music a new number “Raindrops” has been added.

Need an instrument?

If you'll be needing an instru-

ment (drum, sousaphone, etc.) please let us know ASAP so we can try to find something. Instruments are available for rent from Long and McQuade in Burlington.

Looking for a few good volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help on the Homecoming weekend doing things like tending bar and assisting with the registration process. If you could give an hour of this weekend it will help ensure that everyone has a great time.

If so please contact the steering committee at info@bttbalumni.ca. Your hard work will help make this event a great success.

Can't volunteer? Then donate

We are currently looking for corporate and other sponsors for the Homecoming Reunion. If you or your company would be interested in supporting this event in any way please contact us at info@bttbalumni.ca for more

information on sponsorship opportunities.

Share your memories with your fellow Bandmates

We are always looking for photographs, video or music files of the Band from any era for use on the Web site and in our planned history projects. Please send them to info@bttbalumni.ca for use on the Web site, in the newsletter or as part of one of the ongoing projects for the reunion.

Have news? Share it with the Alumni

If you have any news that you'd like to share with other Band Alumni members please send it to newsletter@bttbalumni.ca.

Organizing Committee welcomes new member

The 60th Anniversary Homecoming Reunion Committee would like to welcome Chris Maguire to the group. Chris will be in charge of the registration process.

Memory of the month - Parade of Champions Field Show

Last month we read Carole (Plows) Barone's account of the first Philadelphia Parade of Champions Field Show. This month we look through the eyes of former Marching Director Robert Garnier.

This was to be my test by fire of a field show written for a marching band. I had written for other groups but never before a marching band, and while the methodology is the same the instrumentation is different, and this was indoors. I was new to the band and there were, I am sure, a number of people both in and out that were not confident that I could deliver.

The trip began as all trips do with nervousness, and anticipation. The band had been told by members, ex-members and staff what to expect, they had rehearsed, gone through uniform checks and prepared as best they could.

Like most tours the bus trip there was mostly uneventful, however when we arrived at the Marriott Hotel things changed.

My intent was to get everyone settled in their rooms and then have a short practice to loosen up and get the kinks out after the bus ride. Not to be. The hotel in their infinite wisdom had assigned each person their own room. They had completely ignored the rooming list sent to them and now the chaps and hotel staff had to figure out the whole mess. It took hours. The band waited patiently in the parking lot for all this to be sorted out.

I took this to be a sign from the M & M gods (marching & manoeuvring) that they wanted to see just how much frustration we could stand.

We thought that we had settled in when low & behold we had to do a quick demonstration for the local television station for their newscast. The rest of the evening was spent check-

ing uniforms, cleaning shoes & instruments. No one wanted to settle down for the night (the whole band was wired) and the chaps were pressing and repairing uniforms till three in the morning.

The next afternoon we had a scheduled rehearsal at the indoor facility. Upon arrival there was another group on the floor. The music they were playing was from Swan Lake. As an added visual effect they had members dressed up like swans running in and out of the ranks. This could be trouble. I had not written any animals into our show, and nobody was running in and out of the ranks, (was marching band that much different?) We had a quasi-military style show, come right at you, set you back in you seat and tease you with a relaxed concert number, then the big finish. I wonder...

As the other band finished we were lining up to go on the floor. I walked out and paced the width of the floor. The M & M gods had done it again. Surprise! It was 10 paces narrower than the dimensions we had been sent. I felt a cold chill. Had we been deliberately misled as to the floor size? How can a measurement be out 18 feet nine inches? Next question for me "What to do?"

I have designed a show that uses every inch of the floor space... I can tell the band and have them worried and confused.... or...Start off the top, and deal with it.

We started off the top of the show and as I expected the majorettes ended up in the seats. (Exactly where they should have). My next action in retrospect may seem mean, but I could see no other way out. I descended from the stands where I had been watching like Moses descending the mountain. Yelling "No! No! No!" The band froze..

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Tough decisions - Who will take the field?

Continued from page 4

To the entire band while looking at the majorettes I said: "What is the matter with you people, are you crazy or what! You get a full floor in front of you then you open the stride and this is what happens! Do it again! Off the top! This time don't open up the stride!"

The second time through the patterns all fit. I breathed a small sigh of relief but still didn't let on that anything was amiss.

Our rehearsal time ended and we headed back to the hotel. The M & M gods were still at it. Traffic was slow and time is fast becoming an enemy. We finally arrived and after a quick meal we headed for the auditorium.

The bus ride to the auditorium has made an impression on me that will be with me forever. It says a great deal about attitude and dedication and not putting one's self-interest first. We had some members who were not what you would call the best marchers I had ever seen. They were rookies and just hadn't developed as fast as their peers. I had told them that I might not use them in the evening performance.

One young trumpet player (who shall remain nameless in this article but, is forever in my mind) came up to the front of the bus and wanted to talk to me.

"Mr. G." he said "I know I have made some mistakes in the show and if you think that it is best for the band, I will understand if you don't let me march. But, if you let me march tonight I promise I will try my very hardest not to make any mistakes."

"Go back to your seat," I told him "I'll let you know."

I asked for opinions and guidance but the answer I got back was "It's your show you decide." Decisions, decisions, what do I do? Let them march or let them sit out...

My decision really wasn't that difficult. We rehearsed together as a band we travelled together as a band and we would perform together as a

band and let the chips fall where they may. My decision, my responsibility, if it cost our opportunity of doing well it would be on my shoulders, no one else's!

We arrived at the auditorium and I made my decision known to the band that "We came as a band and we will perform as a band!"

The first surprise of the evening came as we were informed that we would be playing the Canadian National Anthem. We were told in the most emphatic terms that we were to take our directions on the floor from the announcer.

The host band entered the floor and took up their position at the far end, we were told to take our position at the near end under part of the stands, spread from wall to wall. On the conclusion of the ceremonies the announcer dismisses the host band and tells them they can leave the floor. One minor problem, we are blocking the exits.

Whether it was an accident or it was planned has never been resolved to my satisfaction however, if it was meant to disrupt us, it failed miserably. No one in our band moved. The guard captain of the time Sue Morrissey quietly threatened the colour guard (who were directly in line the exiting band) within an inch of their lives if anyone moved.

After seeing the chaos that was occurring to the host band the announcer kindly announced that we could leave the floor.

About this time the M & M gods (remember them) made another appearance. We were told that we would have to split up the band and have the girls in one location and the boys in another. Not going to happen! Mr. A told them in no uncertain terms that we would not split the band up and if they insisted we would leave. Amazingly an area for the entire band became available.

The next portion of the program was the inspection of the band by members of the U.S.

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The M&M gods do their worst

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Marines. I have been through some pretty tough inspections in my time but never one like this. The band was in the inspection area for at least 20 minutes, if not more. They checked every item on every person. In one instance one marine sergeant stared toe to toe directly at Randy Keast for five full minutes. Randy never broke. Then the inspection was over, all they found was one shoe scuffmark.

We were now told to line up in position ready to enter the auditorium, we should have about a 20-minute wait. We had no sooner got in formation then the doors to the auditorium opened. I thought, "That's strange having the band exit from the same doors that you enter." Stupid me! They are waiting for us to start our performance. (Damn those M & M gods).

Now, you must understand that we had submitted a script to the announcer with our intentions clearly outlined and ended with the announcer saying:

"BURLINGTON TEEN TOUR BAND YOU MAY TAKE THE FLOOR IN COMPETITION."

Now everything to get the band started depends on the Drum Majors hearing that key phrase. They have been told over and over, and over not to start till they hear it.

Guess what? It's time once again for the M & M gods to do their worst.

Christine Campbell (the head drum major) will be forever emblazoned in my mind for her actions that evening. By her deportment, her style and the feeling of class that she extruded while leading the band on the floor set the stage for the entire band. You could see and feel the total pride and confidence spread through the band. The magic was in the air! We were ready!

Mr. A came to where I was standing at the side of the floor and says, "Look at the announcers table." I did and saw no one there but figured he hadn't started the intro. "He did the intro as they came on the floor" Mr. A whispered.

Now we have a band on the floor, pumped, primed and ready to perform, but no way to get the program started! The crowd got quiet, you could almost hear a pin drop.

When you get desperate you try anything... I walked to the edge of the floor and yelled "Go for it Christine!" I had to hope that she would recognize my voice, and give the command. The next ten seconds seemed like 10 hours to me. Then I heard those oh so sweet words. "Band! Mark time move!" To myself I said 'give that girl the biggest hug you've got.'

Music! Lights! Motion! We are on our way!

Not only was the band feeling the magic, so was the crowd. The hair on the back of your neck stood up and in my case so did the hair on my arms. In a flash the show was over and the band was exiting the floor. I think (if memory serves me correctly,) I didn't walk off the floor. I floated. The band every single member, had done everything I expected and more.

After we had exited from the auditorium, and were out of sight & sound of the audience the band became a flood of emotion, exhaustion, smiles, tears, relief, joy, happiness, you name the emotion, and it was there. I was so proud of the band that I felt as if I would burst. How do you congratulate and thank all the members, and still maintain the discipline necessary in case the adjudicators don't agree with the performance. You state the truth as you see it, and that is; "If that performance wasn't good enough for them then they can go fly a kite" or words to that effect.

We re-grouped and prepared for the retreat ceremonies. The band exuded pride, as they entered the floor for the results. We know what they were, we remember, and the plaques to prove it are at the Music Centre for all to see.

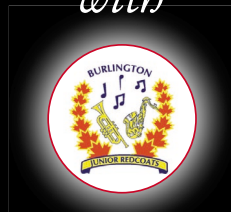
**Robert Garnier
a.k.a. Mr. G.
Marching Director**

THE BURLINGTON TEEN TOUR BAND

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS



*Join us as we begin our celebrations at the
"60th Anniversary Concert"
with*



*The Burlington Junior Redcoats
& Special Guests*

Sunday, April 1st, 2007 3:00pm - Hamilton Place

Adults \$15.00, Seniors and Youth \$10.00

Preferred seating tickets available at the Burlington Music Centre (905) 335-7808.

Tickets also at Copps Coliseum Box Office, all Ticketmaster outlets,
online at www.ticketmaster.ca* or charge by phone 905-527-7666.*

For more information visit www.teentourboosters.com



Presented by the Burlington Teen Tour Band Boosters Inc.

*Convenience Fee at Ticketmaster



2007-03-09

Submit completed order form to:

Burlington Teen Tour Band
 P.O. Box 5013
 Burlington, ON
 L7R 3Z6
 Fax: (905) 333-0859

EarlyBird Deadline: 2007-04-01

Or email to payments@bttbalumni.ca

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		Qty	Regular	EarlyBird	Subtotal	Shirt Size(s)
3 Packages	Pride of Burlington Social + Parade + Homecoming + Uniform + Souvenir + Lunch		\$120	\$110		
	Strike Up The Band Social + Parade + Uniform + Souvenir		\$75	\$70		
	The Sound of Music Social + Homecoming + Souvenir + Lunch		\$60	\$55		
	We Are Family Social + Homecoming + Hat + Lunch		\$80	\$75		

À La Carte	Friday Social (Alumni)		\$20	\$15		
	Friday Social (Guest)		\$20	\$20		
	Parade + Uniform		\$45	\$45		
	Saturday Homecoming		\$40	\$35		
	Sunday Lunch		\$5	\$5		
	Shirt		\$30	\$30		
	Hat		\$15	\$15		

Total

Specify shirt size(s) desired where applicable. Available sizes are S, M, L, XL, and XXL.



1995 Holland Tour - PVI group photo

Excellent effort! Thanks to several respondents we were able to name almost everyone in this photograph of the Band members who billeted at the PVI on the 1995 trip to Holland. Please forgive any misspellings or misidentifications that may have occurred. To correct us please send an e-mail to newsletter@bttbalumni.ca. Please note: All names used in this photo do not reflect married names.

Back Row (from left) Mr. Crampton (Chaperone), Alison McQueen (Clarinet), Maggie McNally (Bells), Caroline Singh (Clarinet), Mrs. Stoness (Chaperone), Kevin Youkhanna (Clarinet), Jerome Farrell (Tenor Sax), Simon Matthews (Clarinet), Dan Sivyver (Tuba), Dave Stansbury (Tuba), Julie Thompson (Colour Guard), Tara Quinn (Clarinet). **Next Row** (from left) Bryan Maynard (Clarinet), unknown (Chaperone), Jemery Farrell (Alto Sax), Rebecca Attwell (Clarinet), Mike Pullen (Alto Sax), Gordon Cameron (Clarinet), Katherine Hume (Sax), Becky Marriott (Trumpet), Richard Stansbury (Trombone), Wes Fraser (unknown), Nicole Rokosh (Clarinet), Mike Dirameo (Trombone), unknown (Trumpet), Beth McNally (Baritone), Jen Vaughan (Flute). **Next Row** (from left) Sarah MacLeod (Drum Major), Lisa Nicol (Drum Major), Jeff Thomblison (Instructor), Kerry Woods (unknown), Brianne MacDonald (Clarinet), Chrissy Heller (Alto Sax), unknown, B.J. Williams (Clarinet), Ed Holland (Trumpet), Corrine Issinoff (Colour Guard), George Ashfield (Clarinet), Cheyenne Arrowsmith-MacVinnie (Baritone), Daniel Bassett (Trumpet). **Front Row** (from left) Leah Mawhinney (Flute), Carrie Peplinski (Clarinet), Melissa Sumner (Colour Guard), unknown, Hailey Walker (Clarinet), Janet Athanasiou (Flute), Lisa McEntee (Trombone), Kerrie Repic (Trombone).

Early bird pricing ends April 1st

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DVD package featuring memories of the past 60 years.

If "The Pride of Burlington" is too much reunion for you then you can order the "Strike Up The Band" package which includes tickets to the Friday night social at the Music Centre, your uniform for the parade and the souvenir DVD package. This package give you the rest of the weekend to mark the 60 years of the Band with your friends in anyway you'd like.

As we all know, the Band family extends beyond just former

members and includes Boosters, parents, spouses and friends who helped us along back in the day or have spent countless hours hearing stories about "when I was in the Band..." so we have designed the "We Are Family" package specifically for them. This includes tickets to all events and a souvenir hat.

If you'd rather watch the Sound of Music Parade than be in it then the "Sound of Music" Package is for you. It includes tickets to all the events without the need to dust off your instrument or polish your band shoes.

For those who can't attend the entire weekend tickets are available for the Friday night social, the parade uniform, the Saturday night blowout and the Sunday lunch before the concert in the park. Commemorative golf shirts and hats are also available for sale.

For pricing on the packages or individual tickets please see www.bttbalumni.ca/#tickets or page 8 for an order form.

Tickets are going fast as some events have limited admittance. And don't forget, early bird prices are only in effect until April 1st.