

The Birth, and Development, of Orangeville Community Band

Orangeville Banner - Jan 07, 2013

Jim Shaw's GRAND VALLEY — I recently had coffee with John Wervers to talk about the Orangeville Community Band.

He told me a local citizen approached him in 2007 and asked him to organize a community band. The band started with eight members at the first rehearsal.

The first year they had a concert at Christmas time. This was followed by a couple of concerts in the spring of 2008.

Wervers has been the music director at all the high schools in Dufferin County. He had been the band director in each of these schools. To increase the membership of the band, he contacted former high school band members.

The band is an adult group which mentors some young people who have been recommended by their schools.

Wervers grew up in Port Colborne. He earned an honours in music degree from Brock University and a Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Toronto.

While there, he studied conducting under Dr. Roman Toi at the Royal Conservatory of Music. He studied conducting at the University of Mozart.

He has conducted bands and orchestras in quite a number of places, including the University of Regina, Lakehead University and Base Borden Collegiate.

He has spent the last number of years teaching in the high schools in Dufferin, retiring in June 2012.

The band plays a variety of styles and levels of difficulty, something for everyone. In their sixth season (2012/13), they have played Remembrance Day and numerous Christmas concerts. They will play an annual dinner/ fundraiser dinner, seniors' concerts, concerts for youth, and an end of season performance at the Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival.

Orangeville Community Band is an all-volunteer, non-profit musical ensemble, made up of people from different sectors of the region.

The members represent a wide range of musical experiences, skill levels and ages. They come from a variety of communities in Dufferin County and beyond and have a mutual love for making music.

New members are welcome. There is no cost to belong to the band.

If you can play a musical instrument and are interested in joining the band, you can contact John Wervers at 519-925-6149 or jwevers@gmail.com, or attend a practiced from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday evenings in the music room at Orangeville District Secondary School.