

Community band held first of two concerts

Orangeville's new community band held its first concert on May 8 at Westside Secondary School with a theme of education and outreach.

The concert was the first of two planned for the Westside gymnasium. The second will be held there on Thursday, June 5.

"The community band wishes to make a special effort in getting youth involved in instrumental music," said bandmaster John Wervers, a Westside teacher.

"As a result, we organized two concerts which feature the community band followed by a mass band event."

The guest artists are instrumental students from various elementary

schools that have programs in place. For the May 8 concert, they had the Princess Margaret Public School bands under the direction of Karen Orme and Laurie Heimbecker and the Credit Meadows Elementary school band directed by Melissa Dobson.

The two school bands rehearsed with the community band a week before the May 8 concert when they performed their repertoire and were joined by the community band.

"It was a great experience for our young people to play alongside experienced musicians," said Mr. Wervers. "It is the bond of music that brings people of all ages together."

er." He said the community band wants to mentor young musicians in the community "and this is a start in the right direction."

At present the band includes about 10 high school musicians who are aspiring at various levels of musicianship and gaining experience along the way.

Mr. Wervers said the initial concert was "a tremendous success, as parents and the community supported it in a big way."

The new band played a wide variety of selections ranging from Broadway musical themes to overtures, marches, Big Band classics and themes from

Pirates of the Caribbean.

"There was something for everyone, with contrasting tempos throughout the evening."

Anyone who missed the opportunity to enjoy the music has another chance on June 5, when the second concert will take place at Westside starting at 7:30 p.m.

There's no charge for the event, which will see guest bands from East Garafraxa Public School, Manchester Montessori School and Orangeville Christian School.

The Youth Outreach concerts are funded by AM Korsten Jewellers Inc, Don Bland State Farm Insurance and the Meridian Credit Union.

