

Orangeville Community Band takes its place in history

Dear editor,

Historically, community bands have played an enormous role in Dufferin County. Up until the last 20 years or so, Orangeville and other Dufferin municipalities had thriving local bands, built on the considerable talents of newer and veteran musicians. These community bands were a staple of rural life, but most all had disappeared by the turn of the new century.

To my great pleasure, the Orangeville Community Band (OCB) has breathed new life into a wonderful old tradition, and done it to a terrifically high standard. The 60+ members of the OCB put on a very successful series of Christmas concerts in December and recently concluded two concerts for Youth at Orangeville District Secondary School. Both in repertoire and performance, the OCB provided great entertainment — from jazz and swing standards to classical and movie themes — every score was a treat. “Bravo” to the members of the band!

The band masters — John Wervers and Doug McIlwain — are to be commended for their commitment to excellence. Development of these programs take a tremendous amount of time and hard work and proof of their success was in the performance.

A particular thrill was to watch the massed ensemble performance of Orangeville elementary school bands, the ODSS concert band with the OCB — well over 150 musicians playing at once, demonstrating the obvious value of music education in our schools.

I would recommend that everyone with a love of community arts put Friday, June 5 on their personal calendars, when the OCB will be on stage at the Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival. Furthermore, anyone can join the band or volunteer to participate at www.orangevillecommunityband.ca. Congratulations on a successful second season and let's all support our community band in season three.

Neil Orford, Orangeville