



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019-2020

Prepared by Becky Campbell, Acting President, Halifax Concert Band Society

The Vice-President of the Halifax Concert Band Society served as Acting President during the 2019-20 season, as our President, John Underhill, recuperated.

The 2019 Season started promisingly, with a small group playing at the IWK Kermesse, HMCS Sackville Naval Trust, some members participating in the Cape Breton Community Bandfest, and our annual Service of Remembrance reception occurring in the Fall season. This was followed by another wonderful Christmas Concert at St. Agnes Church, and a Camp Hill Veteran's Hospital performance through the Winter months. We were preparing for our annual Saint Patrick's Church fundraising concert in March, when our year came to an abrupt halt.

HCB had submitted our entry into the Kiwanis Music Festival for May. In consultation with, and approval of the Board and wider Executive, our entry fees were donated to the Music Festival organization, rather than seeking a refund. The Executive also agreed to refund \$50 of the HCB Membership fee or have it applied to returning 2020-21 member registrations.

The Spring and Summer months saw the shutdown of schools, and the cancellation of many summer Bandfests and performances. HCB held a virtual year-end wrap up the first Tuesday in June.

In July and August HCB Executive members met via Zoom to vote on HCB providing funds to the Nova Scotia Band Association, who, on our behalf made a contribution toward a study of the Safety of Music/Drama Programs in COVID-19. This study is being conducted by the University of Colorado. There were several interim reports presented, as more detailed information & recommendations for safe resumption of banding became available.

Early in August the HCB Board received notice from John Underhill that he would be stepping down as President and member of the HCB Board to focus on his health. The Board met, and it was decided that the Vice President would continue as Acting President, until the next AGM at which time a call for volunteers/acclamation can be made for the President position. Calls were also made to ensure that the Board was at its full complement. After several band members were approached, Kim Wells-Conway agreed to serve as Acting Vice President, until the AGM at which time a call for volunteers/acclamation can be made for the Vice President position.

Since schools reopened in September, HCB has not be allowed access to the Bella Rose Arts Centre housed in Halifax West Hight School, due to COVID-19 protocols that do not allow outside groups to have access to any school sites. After conducting a band-wide survey (85% of band members responded) in September, we began looking for alternate sites in which we could rehearse; either in smaller balanced groups or as an entire band, that allow adherence to public_health gathering recommendations. These types of spaces are not readily available.

Also since September, various members of the HCB Board & Executive have participated in Zoom presentations from the NS Department of Education (Ardith Haley), Saskatchewan Band Association, Nova Scotia Band Association, Cape Breton virtual Bandfest night, and the Atlantic Canada Band Group (school, community, university,

semi-professional & professional band organizations) to share collective knowledge and ideas for recommencing.

Recently, there is a glimmer of hope to resume rehearsals as the Sackville Community Band has identified a potential rehearsal space in the Bedford Place Mall (former Towers, Zellers, Target store). Preliminary results are promising in terms of square footage and air exchange rates. Sackville Community Band indicates that they will equip the space with stands, percussion, and chairs. There may be costs involved beyond light and heat which may be prohibitive; but as of right now it looks like this space may be available in December or January. Our Director, Dave Staples, has tentatively secured Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 for Halifax Concert Band. Negotiations with the mall management are ongoing. We hope to have the information regarding costs soon.

Hoping that we will all can play together soon!

Respectfully submitted,

R.A. (Becky) Campbell
Acting President
Halifax Concert Band Society
October 28, 2020

