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November 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023-24

Halifax Concert Band commenced its 51st season on September 12th, 2023.

We began the year preparing repertoire for a shared concert with the Chebucto Big Band at the Bella Rose Arts Centre on November 7th. A portion of the monies from this concert were approved by membership at our AGM to be donated to Banda de Musica de Olvera, in Olvera, Spain; in memory of our shared bandmate, Randy Maunder, who died there in August 21st. We then began preparing for our annual Christmas/seasonal concert at Saint Agnes Church on Tuesday, December 5th. Greg Doyle once again was at the organ console for the carol sing-alongs, and a solo.

In 2024 we began rehearsing on January 9th, getting ready for our shared concert with HMHS, as well as our Saint Patrick's Church/Celtic program. We performed at Saint Patrick's Church on March 24th to an appreciative audience, with the Ron MacKay Music for Life Horn Club joining the program with a five-piece set. HCB performed with the Halifax West High School band, under the direction of David Burt, on March 26th. We then began to focus on preparing for the Kiwanis Music Festival on April 30th at which we were awarded a Gold Standing for our performance, with Nathan Beeler adjudicating.

May 1st brought the sad news of the death of bandmate and founding HCB Society President, John Underhill, after a lengthy, no-holds-barred fight with cancer.

We prepared for and presented an end of year concert on June 4th at the Bella Rose Arts Centre that was well-received. Proceeds from this concert were donated to the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, in memory of John Underhill.

Our end of year band potluck gathering to close off the 2023-24 year, was hosted by Andrea Dale in her complex's gathering space on June 11th. A gift basket of goodies was presented to our Associate Conductor, arranger and composer, Mark Cuming who was beginning his own journey with cancer.

Some HCB members participated in summer band camps & festivals in our off-season.

Respectfully Submitted,

R.A. (Becky) Campbell
President,
Halifax Concert Band Society