

Local resident acts to save RCR band

By TOM BEST

Should the Royal Canadian Regimental Band be disbanded? Carol Dilworth of Fredericton doesn't think so and is heading a petition drive in the city and on campus.

The issue may seem irrelevant at this time because of other apparently more important matters such as the teachers' and nurses' problems. However, if the citizens of the province do not express the desire to keep the band, an important aspect of N.B. society will be lost, according to Dilworth.

The RCR Band was formed approximately 75 years ago and has been based in New Brunswick for 5 or 6 years. They are involved in an active school program of entertaining and teaching students who would normally receive no musical appreciation. Unlike many other provinces, N.B. does not have a formal music program within the elementary and secondary school curricula. Without the RCR's involvement many of the young people of the province would never receive any introduction to classical music. During these sessions at various schools the members of the Band also give instruction in instrument basics etc.

Besides education, the band is actively involved in the cultural fabric of the province. Some members of the band belong to the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, do musical productions, give benefit performances, and provide instruction to the Youth Orchestra, reference to UNB, the band plays at encaenias and convocations.

Dilworth began the petition last week because she felt that people would not write a sufficient number of letters to the Depart-

ment of National Defense to rescue the band. She feels that it was a hasty decision to cut the band and that more consideration should be given to the oldest regimental band in Canada. Out of a total budget of 2.75 billion dollars the band is allotted 2.5 million dollars and since the displaced members would still be employed in the Armed Forces doing jobs they are less adequately trained for there is no real savings.

Dilworth said Fredericton owes something to the band, its populace should take some sort of action. So far several prominent citizens have taken action. Dr. Dan Hurley of the School Board has written a strong letter of protest to Ottawa and Mayor Wilkins has spoken out. As of Tuesday Mrs. Dilworth's work has procured 2000 names and many more are expected.

The petition has thus far been a "one man show" with Dilworth relying on friends and volunteers. On campus there are petitions in the Bookstore, the Faculty Club, the Law school, and the Biology Dept. She would like to have volunteers to circulate the petition within the residences, possibly this weekend. Dilworth can be contacted at 455-7209.

York Sunbury MP Bob Howie stated last Wednesday, "I am pleased with the efforts of a large and growing number of New Brunswickers who are uniting to keep the RCR Band together and at CFB Gagetown, Canada's largest army training area."

"Citizens, municipalities, and elected representatives from all over New Brunswick are writing to the minister of National Defense urging that the Band be kept at CFB Gagetown where it can serve the entire population of New Brunswick."

"The battle to save the band is continuing but support is needed immediately."

"The battle to save the Band is continuing but support is needed immediately." Mr. Howie has asked MP's and senators from N.B. to support the cause.

"Gordon Fairweather (Fundy-Royal), Fred McCain (Carleton) and Premier Hatfield already sent messages. Today I have written all the provincial MLA's and I am

hopeful we can impress upon the Minister of national defense the justice of our cause and the mistake he is making." Howie said.

Carni Frolics well attended

By TOM BEST

"Freddies Feckin' Frolics" provided everyone present both spectators and participants with a lot of fun. The events ranged from three legged races to obscure activities such as snowman eating.

The stage was set for the entertainment with a fresh fall of snow the night before which made the square have approximately 18 inches of the fluffy stuff. The races were held between the crosswalks and soaked the "athletes" to the skin.

An Olympic-type torch (flare) bearer signalled the start of the "Frolics." Who else but a jock would run around in a red sweatsuit in the middle of winter with a sign on his back announcing that "Freddies Feckin' Frolics" were in front of the SUB? The van then arrived with Freddy Feckin' Kiershaw (Peter Charron) aboard in his fishing gear to announce the races and interview the winners.

The first event was the three-legged race and since the snow was fresh the contestants looked like a herd of siamese mooses in mating season running thru a bed of wet cement. At the finish of the race, twelve unidentifiable masses of muscle and bone were bulldozed from the field of frolics.

Next came the potato sack race. One would think that in this land of the Golden Potato, a few dozen bona fide potato sacks could be found. It was not the case as the event began with two dozen garbage bags. The winner was reportedly seen breaking the tape with both feet sticking out thru the bottom of the bag. The prize (a ticket to Extravaganza 76) is being withheld and an inquiry has been launched.

The fun continued with the wheelbarrow race and the broad jump. The wheelbarrow race contestants were the proud donors of 23 1/2 pairs of gloves which were collected after the race and donated to the Lower Slobbovian Society of Quadraplegics. The broad jump winners showed that they had been in training for quite some time.


The tricycle race saw Sleazy Rider and her cohort attempt to cross the by now impassable square. The tricycle must have had a faulty transmission or a bad k-diddle or something because the race looked more like a slow hop by the Easter Bunny after a hard night at the Playboy Club.

The snowman eating contest turned out several mammoth monsters from one of the residences who had evidently not eaten for a few weeks. The idea was to build a snowman using ten coconut-and-chile covered marshmallows out of toothpicks and then eat it. The staffer swiftly constructed the snowman and


began the demolition when out of nowhere a worthy opponent ate his rather poor excuse for a pile of (expletive deleted) in a single munch. X-Rays to the staffer later showed that he had eaten twelve of the tasty tidbits and seven toothpicks.

To drown his loss, the staffer and three comrades from the voice of student journalism entered the beer chugging along with 11 other teams. On either side were rather large teams which on the gun were released from their ball and chains to grope their ways to the beer. The world's record 12 yard grope was established on the occasion and the beer (bottle and all) was jammed down the "thing's" throat which then groped its way back to the finish line. After four successive beasts wended their ways to the liquid and back, the race was declared a tie and a run-off was staged. "Feckin' Freddie" described the carnage by saying "Holy Feck, look at them hoker feckin' dokers eat them feckin' beers!" The race was close but one illustrious star slipped and consequently his team lost.

Needless to say, everyone had a good Feckin' time at "Freddies Feckin' Frolics." Besides those events previously described, prizes were awarded to people who found special parking tickets (not torn in half) or got Dr. Anderson's signature on a piece of paper before anyone else. The participatory response was very good and it is hoped that similar frolics will be included in future winter carnivals.



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