

CANADA'S YOUNG MUSICAL AMBASSADORS

The Laurentian Symphonic Band of Ottawa has been chosen by Canadian Forces Headquarters to entertain Canadian servicemen in Europe in summer.

The band, consisting of 100 boys and girls ranging in age from 15 to 20 years, will visit the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and France for 25 days during June and July. The young musicians, pupils of Laurentian High School, where music is part of the curriculum, have performed in many areas in Canada and the United States but this will be their first European tour. The conductor is Henry Bonnenberg, Director of Music at Laurentian High.

Howard A. Barber, the school principal, will be in charge of the contingent, and Lieutenant-Colonel, D.H. Morgan, a staff officer at CFHQ in Ottawa, has been assigned as project officer for the visit to the Forces in Europe.

During four-day visits to the Canadian Brigade at Soest and the Canadian Air Division in Lahr, Germany, band members will be billeted with pupils of the schools for dependents of Canadian servicemen there. While in Lahr, the band has arranged with the commander of the Canadian Air Division to choose a German high school student from Lahr; who will return to Canada with the band and be enrolled at Laurentian High School for the 1969-70 school year as an "exchange student". While in Canada, the visitor will stay with the family of a band member.

Funds to support the exchange student are being provided by the Canadian pupils of Lahr schools by the sale of tickets for the Laurentian Band performances there.

CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

The band's visit to Europe is part of their citizenship educational project, called "Bridge 1969",

which has the purpose of "bridging the Canadian-European cultures and illustrating Canada's place in the international community". The aim is to develop knowledge and understanding of the countries visited and to provide opportunities to assimilate European culture and interests by personal visits with young people in these countries, as well as to foster understanding of young Canadians by their European hosts. With music as the "international language", the group is confident of common understanding among their European friends.

EARNED OWN FARES

The members of the Laurentian Band have worked extremely hard for over a year to earn money for their passage to Europe. They sold 17,000 chocolate bars, 2,500 pens, 10,000 concert tickets and numerous other items. They also collected empty bottles, washed cars, cleaned windows, did housework and baby-sitting, worked on farms and sold newspapers.

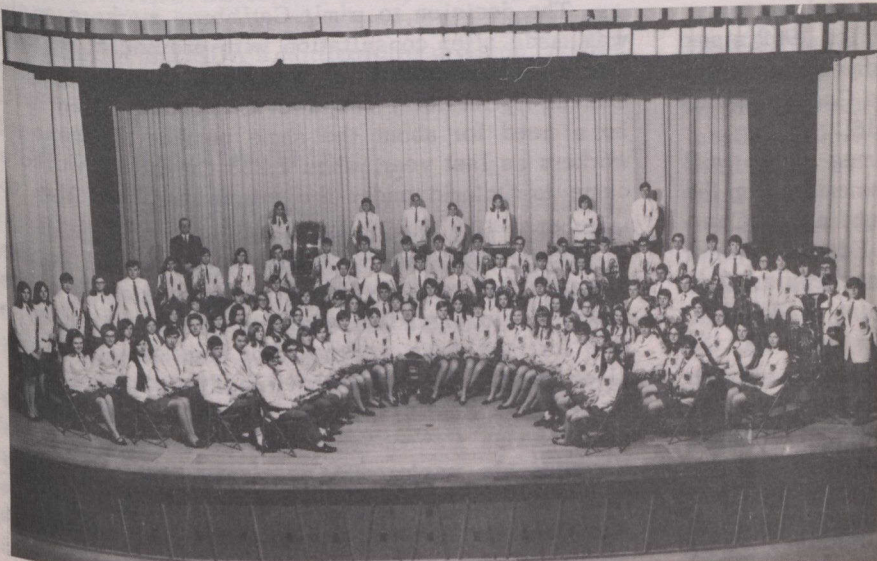
The administrative supporting organization, known as the Laurentian Band Boosters, has also undertaken many projects on their behalf. This group, composed of parents of band members, former band members and friends, has held buffet dinners, pancake lunches, coffee-parties, fund canvasses and other money-raising projects.

YOUNG AMBASSADORS

For the purposes of "Bridge 1969", the musicians of the Laurentian Symphonic Band have been named the official representatives of the Government of Ontario. Further, Mayor Don Reid of Ottawa has appointed the band members "ambassadors" of the citizens of Ottawa for the period of their tour.

In writing to European citizens about the band's travel project, Mayor Reid said: "The growing

strength of our nation is represented by these young ambassadors. Many are descendents of your country. It is their honour to visit the lands of their forefathers and, in their own way, to reward you for its heritage. On behalf of the citizens of Ottawa I express our appreciation for your kindnesses to them."



The Laurentian Symphonic Band