

[View this email in your browser](#)

CHESTER BRASS BAND

Chester Brass Staying Fit

We are into year 2 of the COVID-19 pandemic and feeling lucky to be in Nova Scotia. After many months on hiatus, the band started slowly returning to the rehearsal hall. Following the guidelines of the Nova Scotia government as well as the NS Band Association recommendations, we started sectional rehearsals under the guidance of our Music Director, George Morrison. In order to keep our members and their families safe, we split the band into two groups, keeping each rehearsal to below 12 people -- the COVID capacity of our rehearsal hall. Each week we either gather as high brass (cornets & flugelhorn) or low brass. Our goal is to be ready for when full rehearsals and concerts can resume. We expect this to be as soon as it is warm enough to play outdoors.

Thank you to all our supporters who provided the funding to keep the band financially secure when we had no other possible revenue sources. Private donations as well as support from the Municipality of Chester through their COVID emergency grant program has allowed us to meet our obligations for the first half of 2021.

Meet the Musicians



SUE LEBLANC (CORNET)

Sue's mini-bio says it all as to why she is a valued member of the Chester Brass Band Society.

"As a busy and active member of the community and mother of 3, joining the Brass Band is something I started out doing just for myself -- a challenge as I hadn't ever played cornet, with my trumpet days well in the past. I have always loved music and started with a mix of instinct, determination and basic ability to read music. With a warm welcome and lots of encouragement, I joined Chester Brass in 2016. I have supported the Band through organizing Galas, the Summer Bandstand Series and a short stint as Treasurer and Rental Manager and remain on the Executive as a Member at Large. The music remains a challenge for me which I do my best to rise to each week at practice.

I fell in love with Chester in 2003 and have lived here since 2006 undertaking a variety of projects including owning and operating



DONNY BURCH (BARITONE)

Donny has been a Chester Brass member since 1984 and is now a Life Member. He joined the band on an invitation from Gordon McGowan when the band decided to move from the Chester Cornet Band to the Chester Brass. He played baritone while at high school many years before, but had not played since. So Gordon spent many weekly private lessons teaching Donny how to read music.

Donny was on the original working team set up to purchase instruments and music for the Band, and continues to this day as our Quartermaster.

Since joining the band, Donny had the opportunity to also play with several other bands, including the *Halifax Citadel Salvation Army Band*, *Brass Impacts* in Halifax, and even the *First Old Boys Brass Band* in Northern Ireland as a returning guest.

Donny's love of music is a challenge for him as his reading requires home study. He is not what he defines as musically bilingual; but once he has

Chester Organics, working at Julien's in the pastry side, opening and managing the Foodland Bakery at its outset and kicking off the Well Fed Students Program at Chester Area Middle School (CAMS). I have volunteered at the Playhouse to support their youth programs, on the Home & School at Chester District School (CDS), the SAC at CDS and CAMS, and with other community events. I sit on the RootEd Board to work toward a better school food future for all students. By day I am the Executive Director at the Chester Art Centre where we support local artists and offer creative opportunities for all ages.

My passion is well-being with a background in Kinesiology from Dalhousie and Natural Nutrition, I have been known to work with those interested and ready to improve their health through food and exercise by special request and love to share in the joys and tribulations of that life changing journey."

each new piece figured out and he "hears" the meter and blend, his sound mixes well with the rest of the more accomplished players. He has played a few solo pieces over the years, but his strength is listening to others and tuning each note he plays to blend with the brass choir.

Donny has attended and competed with Chester Brass in three North American Brass Band championships, is a member of the Chester Brass Board of Directors and a promoter of community music opportunities that support the band's objective of being a village artistic asset.

He has always worked tirelessly for the Chester Brass, managing all instruments, maintaining the band hall property and encouraging young players. He doesn't, however, do windows or climb ladders!

Donny is usually the first each week to open the band hall and set up the rehearsal space and one of the last to leave. He also is the band's overseer of British Brass tradition of conduct regarding performance uniforms and concert protocol.

Annual General Meeting Summary

The band's AGM was held virtually on April 12, since we are still not having the full band in the building at one time.

The Annual report was approved and the Board of Directors was confirmed as follows:

- Payson Rowell - President
- Rod MacGillivray - Vice-President
- Gale Lohnes - Secretary
- David Friendly - Treasurer
- Marlene Blezy - Librarian
- Donny Burch - Quartermaster
- Michael Charles
- Sarah Gates
- Sue LeBlanc
- George Morrison
- Mike Morrissey
- Andrew Ross
- Bob Warren

[Click Here to Donate To Chester Brass Band](#)



Facebook



Website

Copyright © 2021 Chester Brass Band, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

