HERITAGE BRASS

END OF YEAR REPORT
2024-2025

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Executive Summary

On behalf of Heritage Brass, this document is provided for the divisional commander as a record of the band's accomplishments for the year September 2024 – July 2025.

It contains:

- A brief history of the band
- The band's mission
- A listing of the executive board
- Greetings from the executive officer and bandmaster
- Details of the activities for the year
- Contact information

About Us

Heritage Brass is one of three seniors' bands in the province of Ontario which "offer retirees a place for music, enrichment and quality fellowship."[1] Beginning in 1988 as the Metro Toronto Reservist Band, it was renamed the Ontario Central Reservist Band in 2004, and it became Heritage Brass in 2007.

The band is currently composed of approximately 30 members representing approximately 20 corps/ministry units within the GTA and beyond. Some live as close as three kilometres, others as much as 170 kilometres, but they all faithfully make their way to The Salvation Army Agincourt Temple Community Church at 3080 Birchmount Road most Thursdays from September to June for rehearsals.

More information can be found on the band's website: https://www.heritagebrass.ca/

Mission

The band's mission statement declares that the purpose of the band is to glorify God and to proclaim the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Executive Board

The board is composed of nine members. They oversee the policies and practices of the band, as well as the scheduling of various events throughout the year.

Name	Position	Appointed
Major Kenneth Ritson	Executive Officer	Sep 29, 2023
Curtis Metcalf	Bandmaster	Sep 1, 2024
Graham Kinghorn	Deputy Bandmaster	Nov 1, 2018
Major Kevin Metcalf	Band Sergeant	Dec 1, 2024
Ken Rawlins	Treasurer	Nov 21, 2024
Henry Preece	Librarian	Mar 7, 2013
Keith Bond	Quartermaster	Nov 22, 2018
Bob Skinner	Events Coordinator	Sep 1, 2024
Major Wayne Knight	Secretary	Nov 21, 2024

[1] https://salvationist.ca/articles/and-the-band-played-on-1/

Greetings From the Executive Officer

Major Kenneth Ritson

We have had a great year. With changes to the board, everyone has pitched in and supported each other. The divisional commander has come alongside and has added to our season. He has stated he appreciates the band especially reaching out to different corps. This next year under Curtis looks to be another great year.

Greetings From the Bandmaster

Curtis Metcalf

It has been my pleasure to conduct Heritage Brass this past season, and I look forward to another year of continued artistic development with the band. My aim for the ensemble is to inspire and uplift audiences, so that we might be a vehicle of worship and outreach for The Salvation Army throughout the Ontario Division. Together with the board of directors, we will heed the words of Paul in Colossians 3:23:

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

Summary of the Year

The 2024/2025 year (September to July) was a significant period for Heritage Brass. There was change in the makeup of the band's executive board plus considerable turnover in the membership. Sadly, some members were promoted to glory.

There were several events within the GTA, such as our annual fall concert in Oshawa, a joint concert with Solidarity Brass, visits to various ministry units, celebrations of life, Christmas events and an extended trip to Sudbury in April for the corps' 130th anniversary.

The season commenced as usual with rehearsals in September, the annual concert at the end of October, and culminated with a dinner at the Royal Canadian Legion in Sutton and the mid-week concert in Georgina on July 2. Depending on the event, the full band participated; at other times we had smaller ensembles of six or more.

There was also some activity during the summer break (July and August). A small group provided music for the Meighen Health Centre 60th anniversary celebrations on July 12. Throughout the summer, a small group of seven or eight members met periodically to (as brass players will say) "have a blow to keep their chops in shape."

Retirees

- Major Alan Price (12 years)
- Alan Speed (16 years)
- Arnold Cooper (17 years)
- Murray Shadgett (14 years)
- Major Cliff Hollman (15 years)
- Wally Allington (27 years)

Members Promoted to Glory

- Doug Pugh PTG Sep 22, 2024
- Wally Court PTG Dec 15, 2024
- Gil van der Horden PTG Jan 30, 2025
- Henry Legge PTG May 29, 2025

Events

Date	Location	Event
Jul 12, 2024	Meighen Residence	60th Anniversary Celebration

An ensemble was invited to be a part of the musical entertainment at the Meighen Retirement Residence on Davisville Road for their 60th anniversary celebration. It was a privilege to help celebrate a facility which has provided a valuable service to the community for so many years.

Sep 28-29, 2024	Orillia	Concert and Worship Service

At the invitation of Captains Josh and Tina Howard, corps officers, the band visited Orillia Citadel at the end of September. A concert was held on the Saturday featuring a variety of Salvation Army and secular music. A freewill offering was taken in support of the citadel's food bank. Major Mark Hall shared a devotional.

On the Sunday, the band shared in the morning worship service which provided several opportunities for congregational singing, selections by the band and a sermon by Major Hall.

Oct 26, 2024	Oshawa	Annual Concert

Oshawa Temple was once again the venue for the band's annual anniversary concert, a fixture for most of the band's existence. The special guests this year were the award-winning Chorale and Singers from the Trafalgar Castle School in Whitby, a day and boarding school for girls, conducted by Fiona Hopkins, a Salvationist musician from Oshawa.

The evening offered an exciting variety of music between the various groups, concluding with an inspiring rendition of *An Old Irish Blessing* by the two choirs accompanied by the band.

Nov 15, 2024	Georgetown	Kettle Kickoff

Band Librarian Henry Preece and Band Secretary Major Wayne Knight assisted Major Miriam Stevens, corps officer at Georgetown Community Church, with their Christmas kettle kickoff.

The event took place in the food court of the Georgetown Marketplace and was well received by staff and customers alike.

Dec 4, 2024	Northridge CC	Boomers' Luncheon

An ensemble participated in the annual Boomers' Christmas luncheon hosted by Captains (now Majors) Fred and Carolyn Reid, corps officers at the Northridge Community Church in Aurora. Bandmaster Curtis Metcalf led everyone in approximately an hour of Christmas songs, and Band Sergeant Alan Speed shared an uplifting devotional entitled *Mid-Winter*.

Following the program, the band members were treated to a delicious roast turkey lunch.

Dec 8, 2024	Lakeshore CC	Worship Service

An ensemble was welcomed by Lieutenant Dave Hipperson and his congregation to the Lakeshore Community Church in Etobicoke. The Christmas-themed service featured several congregational songs, band selections, Advent candle lighting and a thought-provoking message entitled *Prepare for a Miracle* by Major Kevin Metcalf. We enjoyed having Lieutenant Dave join with us.

Dec 11, 2024	Taunton Mills	Christmas Concert

As has been the case for several years, a small group went to the Taunton Mills Retirement Home and Long-Term Care Facility in Whitby for a Christmas sing-along, a perennial favourite of the band and residents alike.

Jan 4, 2025	Etobicoke	Celebration of Life for Wally Court

Wally Court helped to establish the Metro Toronto Reservist Band, now known as Heritage Brass, as well as the Etobicoke Temple Band. In honour of his connection to both bands, a group from Heritage Brass joined with Etobicoke Temple to help provide music for the service.

There were several tributes which gave testimony to the many ways in which Wally served others, not the least of which was in the area of music. He committed much of his time to the development of young Salvation Army musicians, and his legacy will live on for years to come.

Feb 9, 2025	Yorkminster Citadel	Celebration of Life for Gil van der Horden

At the end of January, the band was quite shocked and saddened by the unexpected passing of its long-time percussionist, Gilbert van der Horden. On February 9, we joined with the Yorkminster Citadel Band in support of Gil's celebration of life. In addition to the moving and amusing tributes by several family members, good friend and Band Librarian Henry Preece also offered a tribute on behalf of Heritage Brass.

Mar 23, 2025	Agincourt	Worship Service & Concert

At the request of the leadership board at Agincourt Temple Community Church, the band's home base, Heritage Brass participated in the Sunday morning worship service. Following the meeting, lunch was served after which the band provided a light concert.

Mar 29, 2025	Yorkminster	Concert with Solidarity Brass

Heritage Brass and Solidarity Brass presented a concert at Yorkminster Citadel. Each band performed individually, and there were a few joint items. Heritage Brass provided a devotional component.

Admission was a donation of non-perishable food items, and a freewill monetary offering was also taken. Proceeds of both went to the Yorkminster Community Food Bank.

April 26-27, 2025	Sudbury	130th Anniversary Celebrations

At the invitation of Major Andrew Watkinson, area commander for the Ontario North Region, the band travelled to Sudbury to participate in the corps' 130th anniversary celebrations. Major Andrew joined in with the band for the weekend.

The venue for Saturday evening was St. Stephen's on the Hill United Church. Dinner was served, followed by a varied program of Salvation Army and secular music. Lieut.-Colonel Lynn Armstrong, divisional officer personnel secretary, shared a devotional.

The weekend concluded with a worship service at the Sudbury Community Church. The band provided music for the service along with the corps' worship team. Lieut.-Colonel Brian Armstrong, divisional commander, delivered the sermon. Lunch was served afterwards.

May 6, 2025	Online	Website Relaunch

A new version of the Heritage Brass website was launched on this date. The intent was to give a new look and feel, and to hopefully improve navigation within the site.

As of the end of June, there were approximately 830 page views with about 170 unique visitors.

May 18, 2025	Cedarbrae CC	Worship Service

A group of six band members, dubbed the Cedarbrae Six, attended the Cedarbrae Community Church in Scarborough to help provide the music. We were enthusiastically received by the congregation, which, like several other Salvation Army ministry units, are not used to hearing a brass band on a Sunday morning.

One of the unique pieces that was presented was a selection composed by Major Wayne Knight, which is scored for at least 15 players. The selection was reworked for the occasion by Bandmaster Curtis Metcalf for six parts.

Major Kevin Metcalf presented a sermon entitled *Risky Religion*.

June 2025	Service Desk	Project for On-Hold Music

The Army's service desk approached us early in June concerning a project they were working on to provide music to callers when they are put on hold. They are interested in using music provided by Heritage Brass, which would be incorporated with a short voice recording to provide the listener with information about the band. The timing was good given that we were planning a recording session. Major Wayne Knight was tagged to do the English component of the voice recording.

A final copy was produced around mid-July, but the project has been put on hold pending the outcome of discussions with the communications department.

Jun 14, 2025	Barrie	Celebration of Life for Henry Legge

Henry, who had a profound passion for music, joined Heritage Brass in October 2024, but unfortunately ill health took him from us less than a year later. As a tribute to his service, a small group from Heritage Brass travelled to Barrie Citadel to support the band there for Henry's celebration of life.

Jun 19, 2025	Yorkminster Citadel	Mini-Recording

Bandmaster Curtis Metcalf decided to have formal video recordings of the band to be posted on the website. Sean van Gulik from the territorial music and arts ministries did the honours.

Jul 2, 2025	Sutton/Georgina	End-of-Year Dinner and Concert

This annual event, which marks the end of the year for the band, took place as it has done so for most of the band's existence. Special guests for the evening were Lieut.-Colonels Brian and Lynn Armstrong, divisional leaders.

We were treated to a delicious roast beef dinner by the auxiliary members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 356 in Sutton. At the end of the meal, a few minutes were taken to remember those members who had been promoted to glory during the year. Police Constable Hector MacDonald, a member of the Toronto Police Pipe Band, played the Scottish Lament, *Flooers O' the Forest*.

The Salvation Georgina Community Church in Jackson's Point was the venue for the evening concert. Bandmaster Curtis Metcalf led the band through a varied program of Salvation Army and secular music. Lynn Janes was the special guest vocalist.

Retired members were acknowledged for their years of service, 101 in total.

Lieut.-Colonel Brian Armstrong offered a thought-provoking devotional based on the Hebrew word *hesed* which can be interpreted as God's overwhelming lovingkindness, steadfast mercy and love.

How to Contact Us

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