

## 2017 Annual Report of the St. Johnsbury Band

The St. Johnsbury Band provides a weekly summer concert series from the bandstand in Courthouse Park funded by a special appropriation of \$770 from the Town of St. Johnsbury. All concerts are free and open to the public and each offers a different musical program of historic marches, show tunes, general concert band music and an overture. The concert season consists of 10 summer concerts (weather permitting) with the first one of the season being at St. Johnsbury Health and Rehab and the balance being on the bandstand in Courthouse Park.

We appreciate local area business who sponsored free ice cream socials at all of our summer concerts: Armstrong Better Hearing and All About Flowers, the Caledonian Record, Community National Bank (2), NVRH, Passumpsic Savings Bank (2) plus an anonymous sponsor. We also appreciate public support of our New Music Fund which received a gift we plan on using for new music over the next 10 years. In addition, donations were received to go toward a permanent display at the St. Johnsbury History & Heritage Center of the band's history, uniforms and memorabilia along with several rare local instruments. This exhibit now being planned and if you have an item of St. Johnsbury Band history in your closet, barn or attic, please consider donating it to St. Johnsbury History & Heritage for this new exhibit. Somewhere there may still exist the bear skin cap worn by our Band Director in the 1870-1880s and other unique band items.

Public attendance at the summer concerts series was up in 2017, along with several new members to the band bringing us close to 50 inside the bandstand for several performances. This summer we welcomed several students who often played with us. Assuming our present special appropriation request is approved, look for us in the summer of 2018 starting June 18<sup>th</sup> on the bandstand (with the prior week being at Health and Rehab). We hope to offer free ice cream socials at all our summer concerts again in 2018.

In addition to the summer concert series the band joined with the St. Johnsbury School bands and St. Johnsbury Academy for the annual Festival of Bands concert in April, played at St. Johnsbury's Memorial Day Observance, a Veterans Day Concert featuring the music from World War I, and a holiday concert with Santa and the Caledonia Children's Chorus. The band performed two benefit concerts; one to support the Melissa Jenkins Citizenship Prize at St. Johnsbury Academy which has generated over \$1300 to support this scholarship program and the other to benefit the St. Johnsbury History & Heritage Center.

All of the band members, officers and Board volunteer their time and talent to the band and only the Music Director Gary Aubin and Assistant Musical Director Kirsten Harter receive an honorarium. The band also seeks outside sources of revenue through paid engagements to meet its budget and in 2017 we added two additional parades to our schedule. Membership in the band is free and if you have basic music reading skills and a concert band type instrument please consider joining us in 2018. Rehearsals are Monday evenings; please contact [manager@stjohnsburyband.org](mailto:manager@stjohnsburyband.org) for more info or call 274-4053. Donations for our New Music Fund are accepted at each summer concert and throughout the year. The St. Johnsbury Band is a non-profit 501c3 organization.

We appreciate the staff of the Caledonia Courthouse who open the doors from the Courthouse to the bandstand for every concert as well as the State of Vermont for allowing us to rehearse inside the

Courthouse. The Courthouse grounds looked particularly good and well-kept this past year and the new lighting made it much easier for us to read music in the evening concerts.

At the annual meeting October 23, 2017 the following individuals were elected: Gary Aubin; Musical Director, Kirsten Harter; Assistant Musical Director and Treasurer, Dianne Wyllie; Secretary, Jim McGregor; Music Librarian, David Askren; Web Manager, David Hare, Manager; Cheryl Gove, Assistant Manager; and Ken McCulloch was elected to the Board of Directors. Billie Winter was awarded the band's highest honor; lifetime member and John Goodrich (already a lifetime member) was awarded the Reg and EE Bagley Award for extraordinary service to the band. The United Community Church was voted "Honorary Band Member" in recognition of and appreciation for all their support over the years offering their sanctuary and fellowship hall to the band for our various concerts and events. I am thankful to all the band members who not only volunteer as performers, but also help the band in many other ways and of course to the citizens of St. Johnsbury who financially support us and attend our concerts.

Visit us at [www.stjohnsburyband.org](http://www.stjohnsburyband.org) where you will find our current band calendar and like us on Facebook for updates. We look forward to providing the residents of St. Johnsbury another summer of concerts from the bandstand and remember that the best place to hear a concert is from inside the bandstand!

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