

Green, Jack



Ninetieth-birthday celebrations were held Saturday for Jack Green, the local Salvation Army bandmaster from 1949 to 1968. His

daughters, Dorothy Austin (left), of Belleville, and Glenys Read, of Peterborough, helped welcome the more than 200 visitors to the open house at Belleville's citadel.

## Jack's 90 years old and still making music

By JULIA ASHBERRY  
Staff Reporter

After nearly six decades, Jack Green is still making music in Belleville.

And that's something to blow your trumpet about.

Not that Jack did—personal reticence has always been one of his characteristics—except when it came to teaching his beloved music.

But many, many others were there to back him up Saturday at his 90th birthday celebrations—at the Belleville Salvation Army Citadel, the organization which has been central to many of his years and much of his music.

He has been a driving force on Belleville's musical scene for more than a half-century.

Green left his native Wales in 1929 to settle in Belleville, where he brought his experience at playing the cornet to the local Salvation Army band. He later served as young people's bandmaster in the corps and became bandmaster of the senior band in 1949—a position that he held until 1968.

He has trained many young musicians at Salvation Army camps across Canada. And some of his current and former students entertained at his birthday celebrations at the Belleville citadel Saturday.

Two former students, Robert Lessles and Brian Greenwood, travelled from their current homes in Ottawa to attend the celebration for Green.

"I'm really proud that I taught boys like that," said Green after the men played their horns in his honor.

Still a member of the local Salvation Army band, playing second cornet, Green gives private music lessons in his Belleville home.

"I plan to keep teaching and playing as long as I can," he said.

Green is a holder of Belleville's Cultural Award, and in 1978 he received the Salvation Army's highest honor—the Order of the Founder.

For more than 30 years, he was employed by the Canadian National Railway and, following his retirement, worked as a school-crossing guard in Belleville, until 1984.

Green was surrounded by friends and relatives Saturday, at both the afternoon open house and the evening music festival at the citadel. His two daughters, Glenys Read, of Peterborough, and Dorothy Austin, of Belleville, helped greet guests. Green has four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. His wife, Emily, died in 1978.

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