



Silver stars! The Colborne Public School Jazz band took second place in a national competition in British Columbia last

week. They arrived home last Saturday evening.

PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Colborne band second at national competition

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"Unbelievably amazing," were the words used by Colborne Public School teacher and band conductor, Michelle Noble, to describe the silver medals won by her band at the National Music Festival in British Columbia on May 17.

Speaking last Saturday as the grade 6-8 students disembarked and readied to head home, Mrs. Noble was ecstatic. She figured they would get silver. She went on to explain that the standards are much higher at the national competition than at the regional events where 450,000 musicians vied for the trip to B.C. Only 8,000 make the grade.

Just six weeks before the prestigious festival the school was advised that Colborne was one of

only four bands invited to participate in its category. That left little time to raise the \$25,000 needed to get them there. But they did, thanks to the generous support offered by the community. Colborne Public School Principal, Mike Filip concurred with the fundraising chair Marie Lachner. In his teaching career he has never seen that kind of dedication to reaching a goal.

It was a jam-packed five days for the 19 players and their chaperones. Sightseeing and a myriad of activities kept the kids busy before and after their 7:30 a.m. competition slot.

That isn't the end of the season for the intrepid travellers. With a couple more 7 a.m. practices under their belts this week, they will be back on stage as the opening act at the Apple Blossom Tyme dance at the Keeler

Centre this Saturday. Mrs. Lachner says that the Apple Blossom Tyme Committee and the Keeler Centre have agreed that half of the funds raised at the dance will go to the school music program.

The band will also have a booth at the festival with a video and photos to show everyone what the band accomplished in British Columbia. It will also be a thank you to those who donated either time, money, or goods-in-lieu.

For many of the band members this will be a highlight of their lifetimes, an opportunity to see the world. That was obvious, as the kids were observed leaving with their parents last Saturday night. The hugs and appreciation were summed up by one of the band members who stopped to tell Mrs. Noble, "Thank you for making this happen."

Banner performance! Where else can a person get protection from the rain? Colborne Public School Jazz band's only grade six member, Nathan Schutt wraps himself in the band banner to keep the light rain off when the band arrived home last Saturday at the school.

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