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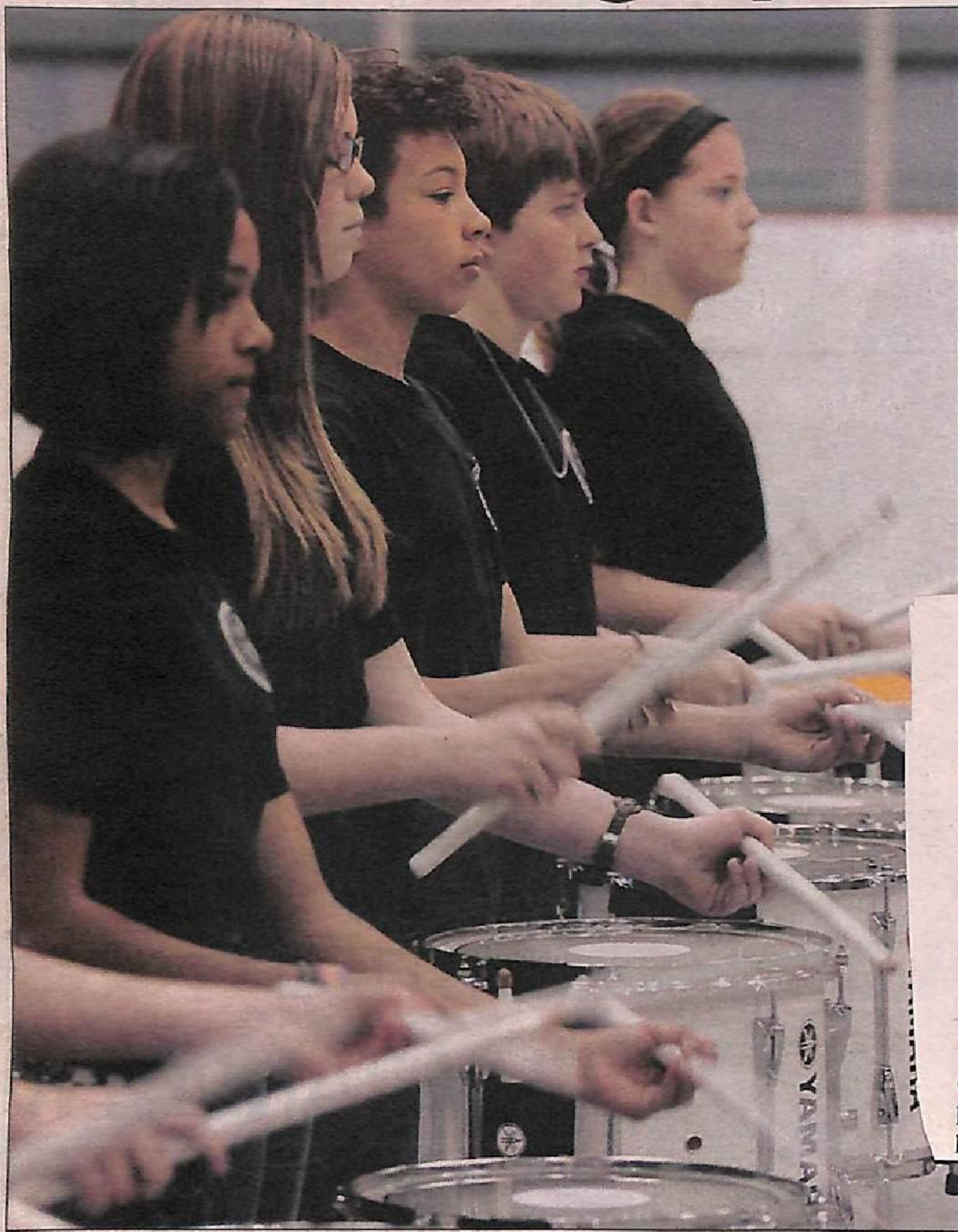
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Drumming up some interest



Members of the Colborne Public School drumline are a picture of precision as they perform for students who attended a workshop last week at the Keeler Centre. Photo: Ray Yurkowski

By Ray Yurkowski

EMC News - Colborne

What a difference a few months makes.

After an announcement last September about a new after-school program, Oak Ridge Percussion, drumming up a lot of support at Colborne Public School, last week about 170 elementary-school students made the trip to the Keeler Centre to see what all the noise is about.

Students from Brighton, Northumberland Hills (Castleton) and Hillcrest (Campbellford) Public

Schools attended a hands-on workshop led by one of the best in the business, Michael Beauclerc, who has extensive experience in teaching percussion and drum set lessons to students of all ages and playing abilities. He's taught at the Soul Drums Academy in North York and is currently the marching percussion clinician for Yamaha Music Canada.

As well, the students stuck around to witness the Ontario Drumline Association eastern regional competition featuring five

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Interest in drumlines growing

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groups—junior and senior from St. Michaels College (Toronto), Trinity College (Port Hope), Oak Ridge Percussion and Colborne Public School—qualifying for the provincial championship to be held next month in Toronto.

Beauclerc and Colborne Public School teacher Chad Morford, who are also founders of the association, which produces competitions for the percussion ensembles, orga-

nized the event.

School drumlines are gaining interest: five years ago there were only a few across Canada, today there are more than 120.

"With the drumline, we're getting interest from students who aren't even interested in music," says Morford.

"The attraction is, it looks neat, it's very loud and unlike the trombone or something else, there's instant gratification on the drum," added

Beauclerc. "All you have to do is smack it and it makes a sound."

Is a drumline in the future for Brighton Public School?

"I'd love to see it," said librarian and Grade 3 music teacher Lisa Facciol, a former Colborne Public School teacher who helped out with the drumline there. It didn't take much convincing to bring her music class along to the Keeler Centre and explore possibilities.