

Blowing Since 1875

...And Acton's Bands

Play On

MUSIC HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE LOCAL CITIZEN'S BANDS THROUGH THE YEARS HAVE ADDED THEIR SHARE TO THE RICH HISTORY OF THE PROGRESSIVE TOWN

Music has played an important part in the life and growth of this community. From the early files of the Free Press we find frequent accounts of Concerts being given by musical groups of instrumentalists. On summer evenings of course was the ideal time for such an event and the citizens of Acton would gather around the band stand on Bower Avenue or on Willow Street and pass the time in promenading.

Well, the contest was finally announced the leaders drew their petitions, the three expert judges had them to the little tent where they were supposed not to know what band was playing or the contest presided over to mark the events of each as they passed the object of competition.

of course the whole town would treat the newest and most highly rated visitors with their friendliest and most cordiality, with a general sense of pleasure.

The bands were not to enter without permission and entries which included the bands of the county were held at the Antico County Fair at Milton. Of course these fairs were not without excitement and it seems that at the fair of 1900 excitement was very high. From the Action's Fair Day we glean the following paragraphs. Action Band had a reputation in those days and was not afraid to enter the annual band competitions at the County Fair at Milton and at other places. Norval had a splendid brass band and the members were highly thought of. Oakville Band was a crack job. The thirty-six members thought so well of their band that they entered it in the competition. The judges were selected from the leading bands of the day and placed well and the judges had their work cut out for them. The first three bands in concluding their list of totals played the same standard setting of "The Queen". Acton had a special setting which had been arranged by Band master Hill which gave the overtones, undertones and tone in a new and very taking form. This evidently pleased the judges more than a little. The contest being ended the judges emerged from their tent and after a neat speech by one of their number in which each of the bands was complimented for their good points Mr. George

This high-contrast, black-and-white image appears to be a scan of a document or photograph that has been heavily processed. The background is predominantly black, with bright, scattered white specks and larger, irregular white shapes suggesting a textured surface or noise. In the lower center, there is a prominent, circular white shape. This circle has a dark, possibly black, border around its perimeter. Inside the circle, there are some very faint, illegible markings that may be bleed-through from the reverse side of the original document. The overall quality is grainy and lacks fine detail due to the high contrast.

AT ACTON FALL FAIR, local bands have presented musical programmes, and may have been organized in Acton. Here one of the Cawood Bands had the platform on the afternoon of a fall event in the early 1920s.

Factories K. one of the three asked for the batonmaster of the band which had played the last time John Hill stepped forward somewhat timid and abashed and the weathy old judge handed him the red ribbon and expressed his pleasure that Action possessed such an excellent musical organization as Action Cornet Band.

Needless to say the Oakville Bandmaster and his members were filled with consternation, not to say anger, at the presumption of the judges to pass them over and award them only second place. Immediately the order was given back up your instruments and competition suspended until after the Days. The members of the afternoon's Actors, Miller and Newell were present, and a full program was given to the delighted spectators at the Grand Hotel.

The first of the Waterloo Cup was contested at the first meeting of the Association in August 1880 under the conditions proposed by A. H. Penrith, and in 1900 the Waterloo Cup, under Mr. Merton, won a prize at Waterloo after several attempts at three coveted awards.

post all the other entries by a good
many and came home with a
stack to prove it after a sum of
money that was added to a uniform
fund.

That was the day everything seemed to go wrong. All the other bands had smart snappy uniforms and Acton had a home made affair. But in all the humility and forgetting all the showmanship, Acton were to a prize. There was no happier man on the ground than Charlie Mason who had conducted the group from their scales to a prize winning band.

The same band stopped their visit at Waterloo Museum Tuesday evening the 2nd instant 1901. Playing a concert band like Winstons they did not play a solo or two but were content to play the same old tunes over and over again.

bated, not only conducted them and paid all the expenses but also supplied the organization with a place to practice which was the old store, the building now occupied by J. McMillen. The Town Hall also served as a practice room and the constant travel led the band to erect structures at their various spots the part of the Army of the

The Town Council and Action Handicapped Bands have agreed to present the lot of land to the town and the lot of Clarke W. Morrison to the Action Handicapped Bands following the transfer of the land to the Bands as part of their 25th anniversary.

Remember When . .

PLATE I.

Take it there may never be a picture made the like to what he'll? Scott citizens are greatly annoyed with the clatter and trying to prove that they are innocent.

August. A travelling fakir struck Acton on Thursday last and gave an exhibition of his eating propensities at the corner of Mill and Main Street, which amused the Juveniles. The sum he received was insufficient to pay hotel bill so he was sent to Boston.



PRIZE WINNING BAND of 1947. This group under Mr. Charles Mason captured top honors at the Waterloo Musical Festival and later at the Canadian National Exhibition. Organized in 1940 the group was conducted from scales to contest work by Charles W. Mason. It was the first and only band of Acton's to win at this Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.



PRIZE WINNING conductor of the Acton Boys' and Girls' Band and a great contributor to the music of Acton. C. W. Wilson, organizer and present conductor of the Band played a major part in ensuring music for Acton by working for a stable year's grant from the town.