

Bringing back the Big Band era

By LEILA WILLS

If you weren't at the concert featuring the Toronto All-Star Big Band (TABB) at St. Paul's United Church last Friday, you've probably heard about it. As one of the most anticipated shows of Milton Concert Presentations' 19th season, the band did not disappoint.

In front of packed pews, the TABB performed favourites from the '30s, '40s and even the '50s by artists including Duke Ellington, Bobby Darin, Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller.

Full of energy and enthusiasm, the musicians aged 16 to 22 dazzled the audience with their skill and showmanship. The 17-piece band was joined by members of the TABB Five, vocalists whose performances were equally impressive.

Many concert goers saw TABB perform last year as part of the Milton Concert Presentations series, and it was easy to see they were excited to have a second chance to see the band perform live. Toes tapped, hands clapped and voices cheered throughout the

performance. A collective sigh of appreciation was heard when each song was announced.

Highlights of the evening included the band's performance of "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" accompanied by singers Stephanie Kujtan, Sally Kwan and Michelle Willis. TABB's theme song, Sing, Sing, Sing by Benny Goodman, was also memorable. But the number that brought the house down was "Operator". As the TABB Five sang, the band came down from the stage to dance, clap their hands, and generally get the crowd going. It worked.

The Toronto All-Star Big Band offers its young musicians an invaluable experience, but getting in isn't easy. The competition at try-outs is fierce, and only the best are chosen. The band travels all over Ontario and the United States, bringing the music of the big band era to life in the 21st century.

If you forgot to pick up a copy of TABB's latest CD, In the Mood, you can order it online by going to www.torontoallstarbigband.com.



The Toronto All-Star Big Band performed in Milton on March 4.

halton happenings

Please note: Halton Happenings is a free editorial service to non-profit groups, churches, schools, and charities only. Deadline for submission is Tuesday at noon prior to insertion on Friday. Please restrict information supplied to include the date, time, venue, organization and contact details for your event. The Halton Compass reserves the right to edit each submission for brevity. Inclusion is at the discretion of the publisher and is dependent on space. To submit an event for Halton Happenings call 905-854-3333 or email info@haltoncompass.com

March 13
 • **March "Break-Fast"** Milton Salvation Army cereal collection from March 11-27 at Milton Mall- Customers, Service Groups and Schools are invited to drop off boxes of cereal and help fill a giant bowl. We hope to fill the bowl and put breakfast on the table for many local families.
 • **Milton District Hospital** is holding a special "Reach into the Pot of Gold and Save" promotion. Save 10 to 20% on most items in the shop. From March 10 until St. Patrick's Day (17th). Come in and enjoy our wonderful new Spring and Easter merchandise.

March 14
 • **Milton Rural Residents Association** open public meeting, Nassagaweya Community Centre, Brookville, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Guest speaker MP Gary Carr will be discussing rural Milton issues from a federal perspective; a question and answer period to follow. Call Mike Grimwood at 905-854-0627 or visit our website, www.miltonrra.org for more info.

March 15
 • **"Ornamental Trial Gardens"** with speaker, Rodger Tschanz, U. of Guelph and 2005 Canada Blooms speaker at the Eden Mills Garden Club. 7:30-9:00 at the Community Hall. Members, free. Non-Members, \$2. Call Janine at 519-856-9749 for more information.

• **Acton Horticultural Society, "Rock Gardens"** with Trevor Ashbee will be the topic at our meeting, 7.30pm at Knox Church, Acton. Info: Sandy 519-853-3912

March 16, 23
 • **The Passion of Christ** - Using the movie *Jesus of Montreal* and Joyce Rupp's book, *Your Sorrow is My Sorrow* as our discussion points you are invited into a thoughtful and spiritual reflection on the final days of Jesus' life. All are welcome. **Ebenezer United Church**, 12274 Guelph Line, Campbellville - 7:30-9:30 Cost: Without

book, free. With book, \$20. Mark Rutledge at (519) 824-7303 or (905) 854-2423.

March 16
 • **"Space Conscious Gardening"** **Georgetown Horticultural Society** meeting starts at 7:30 pm. at our new location - St. George's Anglican Church, 60 Guelph St. Hall is handicapped accessible. Info - Janice 905-873-9890

March 17
 • **About the Street Where You Live** - Jim Dills, well-known and respected Milton historian, will provide an interesting talk about the origin of the names of various streets in the old and new town. Milton Historical Society, Waldie's Blacksmith Shop, 16 James Street, Milton at 7:30 pm.

• **2nd Annual St. Patrick's Supper** - Beef Stew - Knox Church, Acton, 44 Main Street North. One sitting only at 5:30pm. Tickets \$10 adults - \$6 children under 12 can be reserved by calling 519-853-4757.

• **The Canadian Mental Health Association** is pleased to support the launching of a new Peer Support Group in Milton. 7pm - 9pm. This educational self-help group will meet once a month, every third Thursday of the month, at the Grace Anglican Church, at 317 Main Street, Milton. For more information, please contact the Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton Region Branch at 905-693-4270.

March 18
 • Youth, 9 -13 years of age, are invited to Fun Factor Night for MLC Fridays at the Milton Leisure Centre from 6:30 - 9 p.m. Bring your friends for some wacky challenges and exciting contests. Cost is \$4/ person, payable at the door. For more information, call 905-878-7946.

• **Canadian Federation of Poets** - evening of poetry and performances from anyone who wishes to participate. www.federationofpoets.com/halton.htm - 7pm Express Yourself Café, 220 Main St. East, Milton.

• Till the end of Easter weekend, the Milton District Hospital gift shop invites you to an "Easter Egg Hunt for Saving" Find an egg in the shop and save 10 to 20% on most of the beautiful Spring and Easter merchandise

March 20
 • **Acton Kinette Community Brunch** in support of Boy Scouts- Acton Community Centre 9:30am - 1pm. "All you can eat" \$5 per person, preschoolers free. To promote community spirit.

Explore Conservation Halton Parks



maple syrup @ Mountsberg

Weekends from February 19 to April 10
 Daily during March Break
 10am - 4pm

March 5 & 6
 FlapJack Olympics

March 26
 Easter Egg Celebration



GLEN EDEN
 Ski and Snowboard Centre
 Learn to Ski or Snowboard this March Break!

Glen Eden has great:
 Skiing A Terrain Park
 Snowboarding Night Lighting
 Snow Tubing
 ...and is so close to home!

It's Sweet Water Season at Crawford Lake
 Weekends & Holidays from February 19 to April 10
 Daily during March Break
 10am-4pm
 Native Style Maple Demonstration
 Piping hot cornbread dipping in fresh maple syrup

Mountsberg is located on Milborough Line just south of Hwy 401, between Guelph Line and Hwy. 6.
www.conservationhalton.on.ca 905.854.2276

Glen Eden is located just off Hwy. 401. From Hwy. 401 take exit 320 (Hwy. 25) north to Campbellville Rd. west to Tremaine Rd. south to Kelso Rd. www.gleneden.on.ca 905.878.5011

Crawford Lake is located on the corner of Steeles Avenue and Guelph Line 5km south of Hwy. 401 or 15km north of the QEW. www.conservationhalton.on.ca 905.854.0234