



If there is a local celebration or parade, you're likely to find the more than 40-member Acton Citizens' Band performing. The popular concert band is shown here during the Acton Santa Claus Parade.

## Acton Citizens' Band

*Popular concert band is a fixture at local parades and celebrations*

The Acton Citizens' Band, led by band master George Elliott, loves a parade.

The red-jacketed group is a familiar part of the Acton and Georgetown Santa Claus parades, and the Glen Williams Canada Day parade. The concert band—with more than 40 members—also performs at festivals, fairs and other community events in Halton Hills.

Elliott teaches music to beginners on Monday nights at The Band Hall on Wallace Street in Acton, where weekly band practices also take place on Wednesday evenings. All ages are welcome, with a minimum age of nine years required because the size of the instruments are too difficult for younger children to manage.

It's not uncommon for entire families to take lessons from Elliott before joining the band. "One of the unique sociological characteristics of this organization," says Elliott, "is that this is an activity where kids can relate to older people and get along. They talk to one another as equals, because in spite of age differences, they're at the same level [musically]."

Another valuable benefit is the relief of daily stress.

"Once you start to play, you can't think about anything else," says Elliott.

And after marching one or two miles in a parade while playing an instrument, it can also provide good cardiovascular exercise, he adds.

For information, call George Elliott, 519-853-0365.

—By Patricia Post, special

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The house with originally built in 1862 by Dr. James Freeman, who lived with his family and practiced medicine from this location for many years. As time went by, the house changed owners only 5 times, with the longest occupants being the "Sykes" family. The house was purchased in 1985 by Alex and Kelly Trenton, and like the original owner, they live there and also run their DENTURE CLINIC practice. So this charming old building with lots of character, whose roots began in healing, over 142 years ago, will continue as a health care facility well into the new millennium.

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