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Members of the Georgetown TMI Jazz Band at Georgetown District High School nabbed top honours at the 33rd annual MusicFest Canada in Richmond, British Columbia last week. For the second year in a row the band brought home a gold plaque from the festival that brought together more than 10,000 talented musicians from across Canada and elsewhere. The other two bands from the school— Georgetown District High School Sr. Concert Band and the Georgetown Senior Jazz Band— also did well at MusicFest, earning silver plaques.

Photo by Ted Brown

For second year in a row at MusicFest Canada Georgetown High jazz band strikes gold in B.C.

For the second consecutive year, the Georgetown TMI Jazz Band has brought back gold from MusicFest Canada. The band from Georgetown District High School earned top honours in the Instrumental Jazz Division at the six-day national festival which wrapped up last weekend in Richmond, British Columbia. "They did amazingly well," said Eleanor Wallace, Arts Department Head and a music teacher at the high school who accompanied the jazz

band, and two other bands from the high school to B.C. for the event. She said earning the gold was quite an achievement as the adjudicators don't hand out many gold plaques, and it means the band achieved 90 per cent or above in the various categories in which they were judged. She stressed the quality of the improvised solo the group performs sets apart the gold from the silver plaque winners. Categories the band was judged on include: tone quality, intonation, bal-

ance, releases, musical interpretation, expression, phrasing and dynamics. "The key to this group is teamwork," said Wallace. She said an adjudicator at MusicFest Canada invited the band back to play at the Burnaby Professional Jazz Festival in July, and earlier this year the band was invited by the Halton Learning Foundation to play at its upcoming Black Tie Gala fund-raiser. The other two bands from the school— Georgetown District High School Sr. Concert Band and the

Georgetown Senior Jazz Band— also did well at MusicFest, earning silver plaques. They were directed by Lee Banks. "It was an outstanding experience," said Wallace. "They represented Georgetown incredibly well." As well as participating in the festival and listening to other top-notch bands from across the country, the students from Georgetown who attended MusicFest also had the opportunity to do some sight-seeing in B.C. —By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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