

## Friends of Meaford Library 2023 Summer Concerts



### Concert #5 by Beaver Valley Concert Band on Sunday, 23 July 2023

It has been a long tradition in smaller communities for musicians to gather and share their love of music and their talents by forming small groups and bands. The Meaford Citizen's Band was a fixture from the late 1800s until the very early 1970s. There are pictures in the Meaford Museum of the band from 1967 and 1968 concerts plus the band was resurrected in 1974 to play for the Meaford Centennial. Charlie Strimas was the last director of the band, late 60s into the 70s. There are still a couple of that group around, one of whom is Kevin Knight.

The current incarnation is the Beaver Valley Concert Band which started in 1990 when a few musicians in the Blue Mountains got together to jam. Originally called the Valley Concert Band, the group had a name change and became the Beaver Valley Concert Band 15 or 20 years ago to identify with the larger area the current musicians are drawn from. The band was originally based in Thornbury where it rehearsed until 2020 when the pandemic shut the world down. When the band was able to restart in Sept 2022, the decision was made to locate in Collingwood, a more central location for band members and, the move provided a larger catchment of potential players. The band is well on the rebound and anxious to carry on a long-standing tradition of local musicians enjoying music and performing for the entertainment of their neighbours and friends. Rehearsals are now at Trinity United Church in Collingwood on Monday evening from 6 to 7:30 under the direction of Lesley Joosten. The move has been very rewarding and has resulted in a significant increase in musicians.