

“Prelude to Christmas” Concert to Benefit REAL  
Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The Central Band of the Canadian Forces will be doing their part for the environment by performing their 13<sup>th</sup> benefit concert for the Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL) on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. “Prelude to Christmas” will take place in the cafetorium of SFDCI beginning at 7:00 pm.

This musical evening is a highlight of the Christmas season, and brings world class entertainment right to Smiths Falls. “Each and every year, I have thoroughly enjoyed it... Hearing a big brass band really is special. It warms the heart and make you proud to be Canadian”, commented one concert enthusiast.

The Central Band of the Canadian Forces is one of six full time military bands in Canada. Based in Ottawa, the Central Band takes their stirring performances to concerts, parades and festivals around the world, acting as musical ambassadors for Canada.

“We are delighted that the band has included us in their concert schedule. Their performances are truly impressive, and include something for all ages”, commented Barb Hicks, REAL President.

Conducted by Captain Peter Archibald, Commanding Officer and Director of Music, the concert includes a diverse selection of seasonal favourites, vocalists and soloists, and frequently includes a tribute to veterans and guest bagpipers. Local Jack FM radio personality, Wayne Cavanaugh, will be the Master of Ceremonies and will bring his unique brand of commentary to the evening.

Concert goers may purchase a raffle ticket on a photo of a well-known Smiths Falls landmark. Simon Lunn, a local naturalist, photographer and REAL member, has contributed a captivating photo of the Northern Lights over the Bascule Bridge. Also include in the raffle is a chance to win a House Wine Kit donated by The Rideau Winery. Door prizes will be awarded as well.

This musical evening is the year’s major fundraiser for REAL, a local, non-profit environmental organization serving Lanark, Leeds and Grenville. “Residents want to make an environmental difference, and we try to give them the information and opportunities to take action locally,” Hicks explained. Their projects include the ecoENERGY home retrofit, the Well Aware program, Evergreen Avenue, Pitch In Smiths Falls, and workshops, to name a few. REAL also operates the REAL Deal Reuse Store in Smiths Falls, where they sell gently used household and renovation materials that might otherwise end up in landfills.

Tickets for the concert are \$10 each, and are available in Smiths Falls at the Kiosk in County Fair Mall, Modern Thymes on Russell Street, and The REAL DEAL store, and at the Perth branch of The Royal Canadian Legion. For more information, please call (613) 283-9819 or see [www.REALaction.ca](http://www.REALaction.ca).

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